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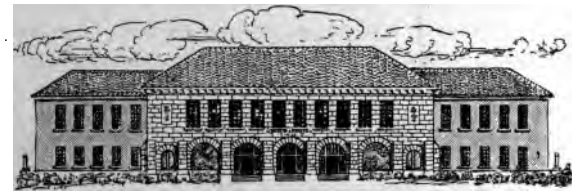
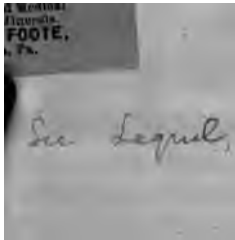
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HISTORY AND MYSTERY  
OF THE  
SCARBOROUGH LANCASTERIAN SCHOOLS,  
AND SEQUEL.

Parts I. and II.



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THE  
HISTORY AND MYSTERY  
OF THE  
SCARBOROUGH LANCASTERIAN SCHOOLS,

FIRST ESTABLISHED IN 1810.

INCLUDING  
CORRESPONDENCE WITH DR. MURRAY THE  
PRESIDENT, THE REV. G. B. KIDD,  
THE MESSRS. ROWNTREE, AND  
MANY OTHERS.

RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO THE MAYOR & MAGISTRATES  
OF THE BOROUGH OF SCARBOROUGH.

---

BY GEORGE DAVIES, ESQ.  
OF SCARBOROUGH,

ONE OF THREE SURVIVING TRUSTEES OF THE SAID SCHOOLS.

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W. S. THEAKSTONE, SCARBOROUGH; BAINES AND NEWSOME,  
LEEDS; H. BELLERBY, YORK; W. STEPHENSON, HULL;  
C. KNIGHT AND CO., LONDON.

1840.

F.  
Sm-ucat

"There are some which say 'Let us do evil that good may  
come,' whose condemnation is just."—ST. PAUL.

"Honesty is the best policy."—OLD PROVERB.

"Bigotry and Mysticism have ever been ready to suppress  
inquiry, because by investigation their dominion is over-  
thrown."—CREWDSON.

"For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh  
to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that  
doeth truth, cometh to the light, that his deeds may be  
made manifest."—JOHN iii. 20, 21.

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## INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS

*To Thomas Purnell, Esq. (Mayor), S. S. Byron, George Knowles, and John Kelk, M.D., Esquires, the Magistrates of the Borough of Scarborough.*

GENTLEMEN,

IF I did not feel convinced there was a peculiar propriety in addressing this little work to you, rather than to any other person or persons, I should assuredly have declined doing so on the present occasion; for although I am aware that the name of one or more of you may have been designedly placed in the list of the Committee of the Lancasterian Schools here, for the purpose of giving greater influence and countenance to the extraordinary proceedings of a small but active portion of that body, and as I therefore believe without any express sanction or authority on your part (and it may be even without your previous knowledge), yet, conscious as I am of your perfectly unbiased and independent mind and character, and having, besides, already communicated with each of you by my Letters of the 8th of April last, as also with Dr. Murray, the President of the Institution, upon the several important points of difference, with a view of exciting some attention to the *merits* of the case from the Committee, either by eliciting an attempted refutation of the original statement of *facts*, recited in my Letter to that Gentleman of the 4th of November, 1839, or at least some exposition of the grounds and reasons of their own Resolution upon it, dated the 7th of January last; however, they having done neither of these, but resting the question between us entirely upon their own assumptions, I have in consequence met with every species of procrastination and evasion, amounting in my mind to an accumulation of insult



and provocation, of which they are so capable, in order to discourage and intimidate me from any further prosecution of the cause which I have undertaken, with no other object than, as a duty to the public and myself, to elicit the truth, and thereby to promote the peace and good faith, and general prosperity of the Institution, and of society at large.

Under these circumstances, I am satisfied that I cannot appeal to the respectable Inhabitants of this Borough, or the public generally, under better auspices than may be gained by your acceptance of this continued effort to be impartially heard, in order to obtain that justice for myself and others, which has *only within these few months past* been so openly, peremptorily, nay, even insultingly denied, by a party of "Friends" in the Committee, acting very craftily, but effectively, upon the misinformation and feelings of others, and who, with a plausible appearance of primitive purity of principle and practice, have, nevertheless, in their *congregate* (not corporate) capacity, put forth what, I submit, will be found to be insidious aspersions, sophistical inconsistencies, and even positive untruths, affecting the character and interests of myself and others, which, in their *individual* station, I am sure they would be afraid or ashamed to avow or repeat, and which it is the design of this publication to counteract, and expose to that public scrutiny and condemnation which such conduct justly demands.

I have the honour to remain, very respectfully,  
Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

15th October, 1840.

GEORGE DAVIES.

HISTORY AND MYSTERY  
OF THE  
SCARBOROUGH LANCASTERIAN SCHOOLS.

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HISTORICAL Notices of Public Institutions are seldom undertaken except by persons who have held certain official stations, or have obtained unrestricted access to the authorities upon which to found the superstructure they propose to erect.

Those of a more circumscribed and limited character, which compared with the former, may properly be designated local or district institutions, have seldom any other memorial than their own periodical Reports furnish; and these, if not duly methodised and condensed, are more or less ephemeral and illusory in their general connexion and bearing, and often feeble and fluctuating in their tendency and effect. Some productions of the *former* kind exhibit splendid specimens of talent, and of exemplary assiduity and research; such as the History of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and that of the London Missionary Society, besides many others, in great variety; but of the *latter*, they are comparatively few and far between, and the reason probably may be, that they generally partake more of a confined and systematic character, and consist chiefly in the ordinary routine of dry detail, as the same appears in the summary of the Annual Reports of their proceedings.

In this History of the Scarborough Lancastrian Schools, great care has been taken not to substitute fancy for facts, or

bold assumptions for legitimate reasonings—such as will stand the test of strict examination; and should any undesigned mistake occur, the writer is always ready and willing to acknowledge and rectify the same; but as the accompanying letters, it is hoped, shew the same open and candid spirit, and the assertions and representations contained therein, have never been essentially disputed, much less disproved, he flatters himself, that in the sequel, the unprejudiced reader will perceive that the grand feature of the present work, to which every other object is entirely subordinate or ancillary, is to exhibit and extend the *truth*, the *whole truth*, and *nothing but the truth*, in direct opposition to the ascendancy of any *personal*, or *party*, or *secular interests*, which he for himself most deliberately and distinctly disavows and repudiates. True it is, and he confesses it with shame and sorrow, that owing to the extraordinary conduct of certain members of the Lancasterian School Committee, he has been repeatedly denied the means and opportunity of consulting the Minutes of their proceedings, or to allow him a copy of the Trust-deed of the School, by means of one or both of their two Secretaries; and *this*, notwithstanding the writer has been, and still continues to be, one of the Trustees for the same, ever since the year 1813, embracing a period of twenty-seven years; and of these trustees (originally nine in number), only one or two besides himself are now living, all the others being removed by death,—whereas, could he have freely consulted the various important documentary papers referred to, and refused him by the Committee, for reasons unexplained, but sufficiently transparent not to admit of any serious doubt; or if he could have obtained a correct series of the Reports of the School, these would have rendered his stock of materials for the work more complete. The candid reader will therefore be pleased to make every just and fair allowance for the many disadvantages under which this little *exposé* has been begun, and prosecuted in the face of a compact and secret and dogged opposition to its grand object, which is to elicit truth—to defend the cause of the

aged and helpless, the widow and the fatherless—and so to detect and defeat error and injustice. Upon this ground, he will be kindly disposed to give the writer credit for honesty of purpose at least, if not for that full and combined statement upon every point, which might, under different circumstances, have been expected and desired;—all which is now respectfully submitted to public scrutiny and consideration, in the ensuing detail and correspondence; and as the letters are so circumstantial, there will be the less need of prolonged discussion, but only in a way of incidental illustration or remark, naturally arising out of such correspondence, and the various facts in connexion therewith.

Without further introduction then, the subject naturally opens itself in the following letter, addressed to Dr. Murray, the President of the Institution :

(COPY.)

*Letter to Peter Murray, Esq., M.D., etc. etc., President of the  
Scarborough Lancastrian Schools.*

DEAR SIR, *Scarborough, 4th November, 1839.*

The friendly intercourse that has ever subsisted between us might seem to restrain, and, indeed, has hitherto suppressed, the formal notification which I now beg leave to submit to you respecting the Lancastrian Schools in this town, of which you are the respected and properly appointed President; and it is in this *public* character only that I feel myself at present called upon to address you.

My settled residence here took place in 1810; about which time, I believe, some well-meaning persons had agreed among themselves to purchase a piece of ground, and erect a building thereon as a school for boys and girls, upon the plan of Joseph Lancaster, which had become very popular. They proceeded in it for some time, with more or less success; but at length, owing to various causes, the Union was found impracticable, and, in or about 1813, the affair was brought to a close in a somewhat similar way as the "Original Cliff

Bridge Company" broke up their concern, and with considerable loss.

At this time it was proposed to, and earnestly pressed upon, me to advance a certain sum, with others, in order to extricate the property from its embarrassments, with the assured prospect of perfect security and early repayment, with interest in the meantime. Although but a new settler in the place, I own I could not resist the application, coming from respectable persons, and having in view the general and useful education of the children of the town upon the economical and efficient principle adopted from its first institution.

However, after a few years experience of the conduct of the Managers of the School, I became so dissatisfied with it, that I declined giving it my further support and countenance; and I hardly need say, that I have never been reimbursed any part of the money I advanced, or even the interest thereon, from that time to this, although more than twenty years have elapsed since such withdrawalment took effect, and although several legacies have been subsequently left to the School, and duly paid to the Managers on its account.

Nevertheless, I never did, nor do I now, charge the Managers with any profligate expenditure of the funds, but rather with apathetic indifference to the claims of equity and justice towards myself and others, by the uniform silence of their Reports, and thus excluding as far as they could, systematically and practically, the open recognition of those equitable and indisputable claims to the respectful consideration either of themselves or others, and thereby, as I conceive, violating the principles of good faith which hold society together in the bonds of charity and peace, and deviating from the broad road of moral rectitude into the narrow and crooked paths of sinister expediency and supercilious selfishness, which never, in my experience and pretty long and general observation, have ended otherwise than in disappointment and disgrace to the parties pursuing them.

I think, Sir, I have stated quite sufficient reason for

the course I have long since adopted, and for the complaint which I now prefer against the Managers; and as I consider I am entitled to claim the amount of interest on my advance, which appears on the face of the Treasurer's Accounts for the last twenty years, at least, should have been paid over to me, but which has never reached my hands; this together will about double the amount of the original advance. My complaint, therefore, in a *pecuniary* point of view, is twofold; viz.

1. The disingenuous and ungrateful concealment, if not virtual disavowal, in the Reports, of any equitable burden or claim upon the School, or its Managers and supporters, for the liquidation of the original loan, or advance of money, so absolutely necessary for its re-establishment;—and
2. The equally disingenuous and discreditable mode of stating the payment of interest which has not been paid, but withheld from me, merely upon the presumption or fiction of my unresisting acquiescence in such unwarranted subtraction from my just right.

These are the *two pecuniary points* which I now urge upon the prompt attention of the Managers; and although certainly very essential considerations, there are, yet others of a more *personal kind*, which I must not entirely pass over, and which, I conceive, very considerably aggravate the evils before complained of. I allude, Sir, to the treatment I have received at various times, whenever I have seen it right to remonstrate against them, as will appear by a reference to a letter which I wrote many years ago to Mr. Henry Fowler, the then Secretary, and to which he was only instructed to return a civil acknowledgment, with a promise of a future communication, which, however, was never received.

Still more recently, about a year and a half ago, if I mistake not, the subject was revived by letters between the Rev. Mr. Kidd and myself, which I authorized him to communicate to the Secretary and Managers, arising out of a very unprovoked attack upon me just at the moment of my leaving

Scarborough for a few weeks. What has happened within the last fortnight I will not condescend to notice in detail, but conclude by renewing and enforcing my application to you, Sir, the President, as I have in effect repeatedly done before to the Managers of the Schools, that as I really consider it a disadvantage and a degradation to have my name appear in the Accounts and Reports of the School under a false colour, so I do now, as heretofore, most unequivocally protest against the Managers and their abettors in all the foregoing respects, and beg leave, firmly, yet respectfully, to notify the same to you, Sir, as President, and through you to all others concerned, and to serve for mutual information and guidance in time to come, as to the course that may best be pursued, either by myself or others.

I remain, dear Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

GEORGE DAVIES.

(COPY.)

*Scarborough, 12th Month 11, 1839.*

RESPECTED FRIEND,

I am requested, as one of the Secretaries to the Lancasterian School, to state that the communications addressed to Dr. Murray, relative to a claim thou makest on the Managers of that Institution, have been laid before the Committee this evening; in consequence of which, they have appointed a sub-committee, consisting of Dr. Murray, T. Weddell, and John Rowntree, to wait upon thee for the purpose of examining the Trust-deed, after which the Committee will come to a decision on the matter. The sub-committee will be glad to consult thy convenience, but one of them is at present absent from home.

I am, thy Friend, respectfully,

WILLIAM ROWNTREE.

To the foregoing letter an answer was sent to Dr. Murray, the President of the Institution, dated 16th December, inviting

him and Mr. Weddell to come to my house, for the purpose stated by the appointment of a sub-committee; and assigning reasons why the presence of Mr. John Rowntree on the occasion must be dispensed with. Upon which Dr. Murray immediately returned a very polite note, dated 17th December, of which the following is an extract:—

“I adhere quite decidedly to my expressed determination *never to enter* upon the discussion, and shall even beg leave to *decline* the courteous and manly offer you have been so good as to make, of looking over the Deed, etc., which you hold.—But still believe me, dear Sir,

“Ever your faithful Friend,

*Belle-Vue, Tuesday, Dec. 17.*

“P. MURRAY.”

“P.S.—Wednesday morning.—I have opened my letter just to add, that I did *not* attend this last meeting of the Lancasterian School Committee.”

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(COPY.)

*To George Davies, Esq.*

SIR,

We are directed to forward to you the annexed Resolution, passed at a meeting of the Committee of the Lancasterian School, held at the Savings' Bank, on Tuesday the 7th January, 1840.

We are, Sir, yours respectfully,

W. ROWNTREE, }  
B. COLLINS, } *Secretaries.*

*Scarborough, 8th Jan. 1840.*

“The application made by Mr. Davies for compensation in respect of a share which he holds in the Lancasterian School-Room, having obtained the deliberate consideration of this Committee, it is their unanimous opinion, after an examination of the original documents relative to the establishment of the Institution on its present footing, that no expectation of money-interest was at that time held out as an inducement



to parties to take shares; that Mr. Davies, as well as others, invested their money entirely on charitable and benevolent grounds; that the privilege of recommending children to the School, in lieu of interest, was at that time invariably acceded to, and that in the sale and transfer of shares which have at various times been effected, it does not appear that anything beyond this privilege has been contemplated by either buyer or seller; and that as the current expenses of the Institution always exceed the ordinary income, the Society possesses no funds out of which to reimburse any individual shareholder. It is therefore their opinion that no legal or equitable claim can be established of the nature alluded to, and that accordingly, Mr. Davies's application cannot be acceded to on the part of this Committee."

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(COPY)

*To William Rowntree and B. Collins, Esq., Joint Secretaries of  
the Lancasterian School, Scarborough.*

SIRS, *Scarborough, 13th January, 1840.*

I hereby acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, conveying the Resolution annexed, of the Committee of the Lancasterian Schools here, at a meeting of the said Committee of the 7th same, which I had hoped the Committee would have favoured me with much earlier, considering the time which has elapsed since their attention was called to the subject.

In reference to the said Resolution, I must hereby most solemnly protest against being taken as in any way acceding to the assumed premises from which the Committee appear to have considered themselves justified in drawing their conclusion. To any such understanding I was no party.

I might add much more, but I refrain; only repeating,

that I cannot acquiesce in the determination of the said Committee, and shall govern myself accordingly.

I am, Sirs, yours respectfully,  
GEORGE DAVIES.

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*To Peter Murray, Esq., M.D., etc. etc., President of the  
Lancasterian School, Scarborough.*

DEAR SIR, Scarborough, 13th January, 1840.

After a suspense of more than two months on the part of the Committee of the Lancasterian Schools, to notice the several letters which I have addressed to you, and which you very properly and promptly communicated to them, I have at length been favoured with a letter from the joint Secretaries, W. Rowntree and B. Collins, Esq., dated 8th instant, and annexed Resolution of the said Committee, at a meeting held the preceding evening; and in reference thereto I have only to say that I have this day returned my answer annexed, solemnly protesting against such Resolution and determination of the said Committee, and which I hereby notify to you, as the prime official organ of that Institution.

I have the honour to remain,

Dear Sir, very respectfully yours,

GEORGE DAVIES.

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*To Dr. Murray, President of the Scarborough Lancasterian  
Schools, the Three Vice-Presidents, and other Members of the  
Committee of that Institution.*

The Undersigned having addressed your President on the 4th of November last (and by several subsequent letters), refers to that letter, and the Documentary Correspondence already printed, comprehending, 1st, The extraordinary Application of Mr. William Rowntree, one of your Secretaries, to the Undersigned, for an inspection of the Trust-deed, which, being in his Uncle, Mr. John Rowntree's hands, he must know the Undersigned could not produce either to Dr.

Murray or any one. 2ndly, Dr. Murray's declining to look over any Deed, and disavowal of being any party to the said application. 3rdly, The Joint-Secretaries' Letter to the Undersigned of the 8th of January last, conveying the *Resolution* of the Committee (or certain members thereof) passed the day preceding; and, 4thly, Two several Letters of the Undersigned of the 13th of January, addressed to the President, and also to the Secretaries of the Institution, "solemnly protesting against being taken as in any way acceding to the assumed premises, from which the Committee appear to have considered themselves justified in drawing their conclusion," adding "to any such understanding I was no party." This direct contrariety of assertion on either side has, successively, given occasion for frequent and lengthened correspondence between the Undersigned and various Members and Officers of the Institution during the last six months, but without producing any satisfactory results. The Undersigned, therefore, in this his public appeal and remonstrance, whilst he regrets that the Committee, as a public body, should have shrank from the responsibility of supporting their own character for consistency and truthfulness, by the production of those "*Original Documents*," which, as they allege, "after deliberate examination and consideration, had induced them to pass such a *Resolution*," hereby challenges them to produce any such "*Original Documents*," as will justify their coming to such conclusion and resolution,—which he confidently believes, and is assured, cannot be found either in their possession or anywhere else.

The Undersigned failing in this continued effort, of six or eight months' duration, to extract any proof of this kind from the Committee, now directs their attention to their Resolution itself, to which he proposes to give a categorical answer as follows; viz.—

1st Assertion.—"The application made by Mr. Davies for compensation in respect of a share which he holds in the Lancasterian School-Room," etc.

The Undersigned never made application to the Committee as a *Shareholder*; and, as he never did sustain that character, he cannot but consider *this* as an attempt to mislead, by adopting a term disavowed by him, and which, in fact, implies a position he never occupied; and the Committee are well aware he never held any *Share* or *Shares* in any speculative concerns whatever in Scarborough, or if he had, he would have been furnished with certificates thereof, as in the Cliff Bridge and other speculations now existing.

2d Assertion.—“On the establishment of the Institution on its present footing, no expectation of money-interest was at that time held out,” etc.

This assertion is utterly groundless, being entirely unsupported by facts and the Documents which the Committee themselves possess, but will not produce, and which have been carefully and happily preserved by the Undersigned, and can be substantiated by reference to the Proceedings and Resolutions of divers Public Meetings held upon “the establishment of the Institution on its present footing!!” The word *shares* is, in this connexion, here again artfully but improperly introduced for the reasons before assigned.

3d Assertion.—“Mr. Davies, as well as others, invested their money entirely on charitable and benevolent grounds.”

Mr. Davies, for himself, understood and intended (and believes others understood and intended) that, by a temporary loan to the Managing Committee, for the time being, he was doing a public service by relieving it from its then existing difficulties, and did so far, he conceives, exercise an act of generous confidence in the honour and good faith of the Committee and their successors, or the public, for whom they acted; but, if it be meant that Mr. D. advanced his money so “*entirely* on charitable and benevolent grounds” as that he never expected any return of his money, either principal or interest, from the Committee, it is absolutely and altogether without any foundation whatever. Mr. D., for himself, sub-

scribed at first to the funds of the School 1*l.* 1*s.*, and then 1*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* per annum: and for such subscription-money had tickets for two or three children, but he never applied the interest, which he was regularly paid for some time, to any such purpose or *privilege*, as it has been of late called, but keeping it quite separate and distinct from any petty consideration of a saving of three or four shillings a-year; which saving appears to have been adopted but by very few from the first, and that "optional," instead of being, as the Resolution asserts, "invariably acceded to."

4th Assertion.—"That on the sale and transfer of Shares which have at various times been effected, it does not appear that anything beyond this privilege (sending children to the School at a reduced rate of three or four shillings from the general subscribers) has been contemplated by either buyer or seller."

The Undersigned having hereinbefore shewn the fallacy of supposing *shares* were contemplated, or existed, in the formation or constitution of the Society, contents himself with denying the possibility of selling or transferring any such non-existent shares. But that many changes have taken place by death or otherwise cannot be disputed; and, in not a few cases, the parties, being practically unable to obtain any satisfaction from the Committee, may have accepted less than their original loan with interest; circumstances of poverty, or the necessity of bringing such outstanding claim to an issue for distribution among relatives, may have, and he doubts not have, induced some by alarm, uneasiness, or persuasion, to make a considerable sacrifice, upon the ground of its being considered a doubtful, if not desperate *debt*, rather than any real share. In all such cases, then, just claim to compensation for the difference of price under such circumstances, it is conceived, is equally valid with that of the Undersigned for the full principal and proportion of interest, as between himself and the Managing Committee of the Schools acting for and on behalf of the public, of whose ample resources and benevolent,

as well as just disposition, he will never despair, so long as truth, and honour, and good faith, exist on the earth.

5th Assertion.—“The current expenses of the Institution always exceed the ordinary income. The Society possesses no funds out of which to reimburse any individual Shareholder.”

The Undersigned regrets much the deficiency of the School funds, but is not at all surprised at it; since it arises entirely out of the long-continued misapprehension and consequent mismanagement of the Committee, which he has repeatedly, but in vain, represented to them and their predecessors in office. For the first three or four years, although extraordinary law charges were to be defrayed, a balance sheet of each year shews a surplus over the actual expenditure of 60*l.* or 70*l.* in the Treasurer's hands. But this *argumentum ad misericordiam* is, indeed, shifting the ground of the former objections most materially, and this very shifting indicates great inconsistency and evident distrust of what has been before advanced by the Resolution of the Committee. But has any inclination or disposition ever been manifested by the Committee to act honestly and justly towards those who generously and confidingly advanced their money to the Society in time of need? On the contrary, has it not been their practice, especially of late, to treat all such applications with marked and general neglect (to use the mildest expression), whether as regards the very poor or the comparatively rich?

Surely in the long space of twenty-seven years some funds might have been raised, supposing a disposition and endeavour to do it, to have paid off, at least, part of the loans by equitable instalments; and, this being done, with a frank avowal in the Report of their inability to do more, and a fixed determination to free the Schools from every incumbrance, by an open and generous appeal to the public for assistance—such as would have been consistent with honour and fair dealing—there can be no doubt that the public would have responded to such appeal, and, justly appreciating its merits,

would have long ago extricated the affairs of the Lancasterian School Institution from all its debts and incumbrances; which can hardly be expected while the principles avowed, and the conduct pursued by the Committee, strike, as the Undersigned contends, at the root of good faith, mutual confidence, and Christian charity between man and man—thereby injuring the prosperity and success of other benevolent Institutions in this and other parts.

*Scarborough, 30th July, 1840.*

GEORGE DAVIES.

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The foregoing proceedings of the Committee, and of the Secretaries, seem now to require, that a complete list of the names of all the Officers and Committee should be made known, in order that it may be seen who those are, whose habits and position in society allow them but little time for personal attendance on those Committee-meetings; and of the proportion of the Society of Friends, and others, who, by their influence and family connexions, carry on the working machinery of the same, in the secret, silent, systematic way, so peculiar to them.

It may also be fitly observed here, that in the original plan and practice of the Institution, no such grand display of gradations, of merely honorary officers, was at all contemplated, or so much as thought of; even a *permanent* Chairman was not appointed, but as a matter of courtesy, and in deference to age and character, and experience, the post was generally conceded to the late Mr. John Rowntree, or, in his absence, to any other member of the Committee present at their meeting. The unnecessary multiplication and mystification of such officers, as a President, three Vice-Presidents, and a double Secretaryship, thus associating and dividing the *laborious* duties of the office between the precise Quaker and the more free and independent Dissenter, was, in those early days of primitive simplicity, entirely dispensed with, which in later times has been adopted for no other object, than the writer can discover, than for screening the purposes of a few self-important and, as such,

self-seeking individuals, though at the risk of their consistency and scrupulosity at other times—and of the outward simplicity of habit and demeanor by which they are generally known and distinguished.

LIST of the Officers and Committee of the Scarborough Lancasterian School, extracted from the last Annual Report, dated 20th December, 1839.

DR. MURRAY, - - - -	<i>President.</i>
MR. J. ROWNTREE,	} <i>Vice-Presidents.</i>
MR. H. FOWLER,	
MR. W. BOTTOMLEY,	
MR. J. STICKNEY, - -	<i>Treasurer.</i>
MR. W. ROWNTREE,	} <i>Secretaries.</i>
MR. B. COLLINS,	

*Committee.*

THE MAYOR,	MR. JAMES TINDALL,
S. S. BYRON, Esq.	MR. W. MARCH, JUN.
W. D. T. DUESBERRY, Esq.	MR. JOSEPH TINDALL,
MR. J. WHELDON,	MR. JOHN BARRY,
MR. J. YEARDLEY,	MR. ALDERMAN WIDDELL,
MR. H. HOPKINS,	MR. J. JACKSON,
MR. J. UPPLEBY,	MR. F. HILL,
MR. ALDERMAN TINDALL,	MR. R. WILLIAMSON,
MR. ALDERMAN CORNWALL,	MR. J. R. TRAVIS.

And all Ministers who are subscribers.

The writer very sincerely apologises to the Ladies' Committee for the omission of their respectable names, which he thinks they will not regret, since it would be quite unnecessary to introduce them on the present occasion;—nevertheless, he has good reason to know, and is most happy to acknowledge, that they have always performed their duty in the management of the girls' department of the School, with exemplary regularity, and distinguished success.

The foregoing list certainly comprises a fair proportion of sects, but when it is remembered, that several of them are



non-residents, or are not able to serve with regularity, by reason of their professional or other engagements, whilst others are placed there merely as honorary members from year to year, and are seldom changed, except when a death occurs (only two such changes appear in the composition of this last years' Committee), it is not at all surprising that the working of the system should be concentrated in the hands of a few active and self-opinionated persons, especially in such cases as may serve themselves, in avoiding trouble, or promoting their own particular views.

Dr. Murray, the Mayor, S. S. Byron, Esq., W. D. T. Duesbery, Esq., and many others, it may fairly be presumed, can seldom or ever attend the Committee meetings, but must of necessity leave the business to others, of which it cannot be doubted the Friends are the dominant party;—and it is a remarkable fact, that although the total number of the Officers and Committee amount to twenty-five, being the exact number of the original founders and contributors of money towards the establishment of the Schools on the primitive plan,—yet only about three or four of these last described, are to be found on the present Committee;—and the office of Treasurer has, from the very beginning, in 1813, always been filled by a Quaker—a people certainly distinguished for punctually “paying what they receive,” neither less nor more; but whose guarded temperament, and self-complacent spirit, at Scarborough, especially incapacitates them for much exertion on account of others. “They cannot dig—to beg they are ashamed.”

Printed copies of all the preceding correspondence, having been prepared, and ready for circulating, it was deemed expedient, and even decorous, towards the justices of the borough, and several others, whose names are entered in the list, either as honorary or acting Members of the Committee, to send to each of them a copy in the first instance; and more especially to Dr. Murray, the President, as a mark of attention due to his official position, and to shew that no underhand measures were intended to be resorted to.

Those copies sent to the Mayor and Magistrates, and to Dr. Murray, were each accompanied with a MS. letter annexed: they differed in no material respect from each other;—but that to Dr. Murray, varied somewhat in terms, though not in any essential points.

The following is the form of the letter addressed respectively to Thomas Purnall, Esq., Mayor, S. S. Byron and George Knowles, Esquires, and Dr. Kelk, the acting Magistrates of the Borough of Scarborough:—

DEAR SIR,

*Scarborough, 8th April, 1840.*

I beg leave, in deference to your honourable station as one of the Magistrates of this Borough, to present you with the annexed copies of letters, containing the grounds of the differences which for the last five months have been agitated with unwearied assiduity on my part, and responded to very tardily and unsatisfactorily on the part of the Committee of the Lancastrian Schools here. The portion now printed embraces many important points; though there are other documents and letters referred to, or may be supposed to have passed, as well before as after the dates of these letters, which remain to be disclosed and discussed, unless measures should be taken to render such a step unnecessary. In meantime, it may be proper to state, that the Committee have not contented themselves with merely refusing any liquidation, or even recognition of the justice, of my claims, but have lately thought proper—from motives too obvious to require anything more than an allusion—to refuse the production of their accounts or proceedings, or allow me a copy of the Trust-deed, being myself one of the few Trustees named therein, now living, and thereby preventing the prosecution of my inquiries, which could have no other result than to throw increased light on the subject. Under such circumstances I feel myself free to take such course as the case requires, as I can never bring myself to accede to any compromise of *principle*, or tamely submit to the unjust imputation of preferring an improper claim, after having on every occasion, formerly as now, constantly asserted

A short time after these letters had been sent to the Magistrates and to Dr. Murray, about twenty to twenty-five copies of the printed circulars were forwarded to different persons of influence connected with the Institution, but nothing like a general or indiscriminate issue took place,—in fact there was nothing either in the matter or manner calculated to excite personal prejudice or public odium in any quarter, but the intention was merely to shew the specific grounds of the existing differences between the parties concerned, *pro et contra*, as the letters themselves and the Resolution and protest against it, very plainly evince. An extreme of delicacy was, in truth, studiously observed towards Dr. Murray individually, by the non-publication of his earlier letters in detail, which the Doctor, in his last-recited letter, is kind enough to allude to and acknowledge in very polite and appropriate terms; indeed it was wished and expected by many friends of the Schools, that the Committee, seeing the exposure of, and opposition to, their aforesaid Resolution, would have had the good sense, and becoming spirit, either to have set forth the true and proper grounds of their own Resolution, and by that means, as far as it might have been possible, to have destroyed the effect of the writer's first letter to Dr. Murray, of 4th Nov. 1839, by proving its incongruity with existing records and facts, and thus shewing its utter futility and groundlessness; or, if that could not have been done, that they would have had the common honesty and candour to confess their inability for the undertaking, and to have made the best amends they could, by rescinding their unfounded Resolution, as valueless and untenable. But they having done nothing of this kind, or even attempted so to do, it is clearly the more incumbent and necessary that the writer should proceed in the path of plain and obvious duty, to support and establish his case to the utmost of his power; whilst, on the other hand, it becomes the interest of his opponents to obstruct his course, and procrastinate and ultimately defeat his object by smothering, as far as they can, every particle of evidence, and denying and

refusing, as far as they think proper to venture, every means by which the certainty of facts may be satisfactorily proved. He is perfectly aware that it requires a magnanimous effort of mind in any case to confess oneself in fault, and retrace our steps, especially if individual interest or personal power are supposed to be concerned; and if this is found to be so difficult in operation, and so seldom practised in such individual cases, a still greater laxity of principle, with a necessary disregard of consequences, and obstinate persistency in a wrong course, may more frequently be observed in associated or self-elected bodies, where the fault, be it little or much, is divided among so many.

The writer would not be so presumptuous as to suppose that his opinions in this respect are of any value, except as they are supported by daily experience and general observation, and in the present instance he willingly makes every just allowance for those members of the Committee, who by their non-residence, or their important public or professional engagements, or it may possibly be from a well-directed disinclination, have kept themselves free from the suspicion of countenancing the conduct of certain other members of the Committee, in passing the obnoxious because unjustifiable Resolution in question, none of whose names, be it observed, appear to the act or Resolution itself, nor even that of the Chairman chosen for the occasion, which omission, it is submitted, invalidates the same, even in point of form. But there was, no doubt, some unexplained design, in not submitting the name or names to the public eye, which induced them to decline any authorized publication of them, although it purports to have been passed "*unanimously*," which, even supposing it to have been ever so regular and authentic in form, only serves to shew that public bodies, any more than private individuals, are not entirely exempt from falling into gross error and some injustice, when as they imagine, they are only supporting their own assumed self-importance, or acting in defence of some undefined views of power or of profit, which too frequently govern all such bodies.

But, as reference has been distinctly made in the writer's first letter to Dr. Murray, of 4th November 1839, to certain other letters to and from Mr. Henry Fowler and the Rev. G. B. Kidd, chiefly prior to that date, it may be necessary and proper, for the better understanding of the rise and progress of this discussion, to introduce such letters here in their due order, and also to shew the undeviating consistency and entire uniformity of the writer's conduct and pretensions on behalf of others as well as himself, contrasted with the wavering policy and proceedings of those opposed to him, and to his just claims, by the Managing Committee of the Institution, and those who act with them.

*To Henry Fowler, Esq. Scarborough.*

SIR,

*Scarborough, 23d December, 1831.*

I address you as the gratuitous Secretary of a very useful Institution in this town, known as "The Lancasterian School Society," in consequence of having just received the last Annual Report of the Managing Committee, with a list of subscribers, and a statement of the Treasurer's accounts; and although that Report is certainly very satisfactory as far as regards the acts and views of the Committee, and more especially with regard to the benefit accruing to the children under instruction, I nevertheless feel myself called upon, as one of the earliest promoters of this Institution, as well as an individual trustee of the freehold with the buildings, and in pursuance thereof, to state very plainly and fully to your respected President and Committee, thus officially through you, Sir, as their Secretary, my surprise and dissatisfaction at the manner in which the financial concerns of this Institution have been hitherto conducted, and the mystification which appears on the face of the accounts, and the Report, by the suppression of the specific amount of the several sums due and owing to the particular individuals who so liberally advanced on loan the money requisite to complete the purchase of the premises, and upon the faith of a due and regular repayment

of such loans to each lender in succession, or *pro rata*, with interest in the meantime, but which repayment, or any approach towards it, has been totally omitted, if not by implication forgotten or denied.

My further subject of complaint is, that without any authority from me, I am named in the List of Subscribers at the sum of 18s. per annum, with the unimportant omission of a letter, and in the italic character to be sure, which character it is afterwards explained, is intended to point out such persons as are there named "*Shareholders*" of the buildings, etc.; but I very much doubt the propriety of such designation as applicable to the transaction in question; and I certainly more than doubt (be it a misnomer or not), whether it be consistent with good policy, or likely to promote the credit and interest of the Institution itself, in the support and lasting welfare of its financial concerns, being founded, as I conceive, in mistake and misconception of the real state of the Society's affairs, which cannot, I believe, be too clearly and faithfully developed, in order to bespeak the cordial co-operation and assistance of the intelligent and humane; for supposing such person, especially a stranger, looking over the Report, and the Treasurer's Account, and seeing upon the face of them no distinct recognition of any debt or incumbrance (which ought in equity to be plainly stated at least, and as far as possible provided for by gradual instalments), and seeing farther a balance in the Treasurer's hands, "chargeable with the salaries of the master and mistress, and with other expenses attending the Schools," he will, I apprehend, be very apt to consider those *other* expenses to be the current and ordinary ones merely, and of course will seek to apply his benevolent propensities to other objects more palpable and pressing, and more especially so when he observes there are certain persons denominated "*Shareholders*," with a distinctive mark of cognizance; he may very naturally suppose the undertaking is a sort of joint-stock speculation, founded on views of sordid interest, or individual aggrandisement, and will know how to

employ his charitable funds more usefully than by increasing the private gains of scheming projectors.

If therefore the Committee do not see it necessary or right to reconsider, and alter their long-established mode of stating and conducting the Society's financial affairs, so as to give a reasonable hope of their intention, and wish to act with fairness and good faith, by a frank disclosure of the whole of the debts and incumbrances upon the Institution, and which I believe is the universal practice in all well-regulated associations similarly circumstanced, I for one, must seriously protest against such conduct and proceedings, as involving consequences personally offensive, and of very grave importance generally, and must then, immediately and unreservedly (yet not without pain), withdraw my name, countenance, and support to the Institution, in every way and manner whatever.

I need only say that my usual absence from home at the time of the Annual Meeting, and my having just received the last Report, are among the reasons which have induced me to address you at this time; though certainly it would be well to avoid whatever might possibly cause unwished-for divisions upon such a subject; I therefore take the present opportunity of expressing my free opinions, for the purpose of your communicating them officially to the worthy President and Committee at your convenience.

I remain, Sir, yours very obediently,

GEORGE DAVIES.

The reply of Mr. Fowler follows:—

SIR, *Scarborough, 29th December, 1831.*

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d instant, which I will take an early opportunity of submitting to the President and Committee of the Lancasterian Schools, who I am sure will feel much pleasure in doing every thing in their power to remove the cause of complaint you mention. Perhaps I may be allowed to add that, from my personal knowledge of the managers of the Institution, I feel persuaded

the manner of stating the accounts, which has given you so much dissatisfaction, has been wholly unintentional, and that it will be to them, as it is to me, a matter of sincere regret.

I am, Sir, very respectfully, your very obedient servant,  
G. Davies, Esq. HENRY FOWLER.

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Although from the tone and temper of the foregoing reply, a further answer from Mr. Fowler might naturally have been expected, yet none was subsequently received. This important letter is, however, exceedingly specious, and as regards himself *personally*, no doubt sincere, but in reality it amounts to little more than an inflated opinion of his colleagues, and of a promise to lay the letter sent to him before the President and Committee at their next meeting. Mr. Fowler's well-known experience in such matters might have testified to him, that neither public schools, nor religious foundations, nor chapels, are ever erected as gambling speculations for the investment of a joint-stock capital in shares, at an uncertain rate of interest, or it may be producing no interest, but rather risk and loss; on the contrary, they are, or should be, conducted on fixed and honourable principles, with fair promise of reimbursement, and reasonable and moderate interest in the meantime. On such principles I contend, and always have insisted, the affairs of the Scarborough Lancasterian Schools were permanently established in the year 1813, immediately upon the execution of the declaration of Trust, which deed was entered into and signed by the writer and eight other persons (although at present but two of them survive), and the same still remains in full force and effect in the hands of Mr. John Rowntree, or others, with his privity or permission. But as the further exposition of this amusing and crafty fallacy of a few of the good Friends, the Quakers, to assimilate, if they can, this Educational Institution to the Cliff Bridge, or railroad, or joint-stock bank, or any other money speculation of modern times, will be hereafter more fully discussed, it may be here proper



to remark, in order to avoid mistake, that it is hoped the unreasonable pretensions and censures of a *few* out of many of the respectable and justly valued Society of Friends in these parts, must be not understood as extending to the *general mass* of that Society elsewhere; and the writer has too favourable an opinion of them to expect or believe, that any large or respectable portion of them will openly attempt to countenance, much less to vindicate, such conduct in reference to any similar institutions, whether educational or religious, which bear any analogy to, or have been originally formed and founded on the established principles of these *Scarborough Lancasterian Schools*. For the present, it is only further necessary to say, that in December 1831, when Mr. Fowler's letter was written, Dr. Murray was President of the Institution, as he has been ever since; and it may therefore be presumed he could not be altogether ignorant of this correspondence with Mr. Fowler, especially as it was brought under his notice in the first letter sent to him, of the 4th of November 1839: and how far this agrees in spirit with the late Resolution of the Committee of 7th January last, being the first *formal* announcement during the space of twenty-seven years, from 1813 to 1840, of such a monstrous heap of unfounded doctrinal absurdities and bold assumptions, the reader will, in the sequel, be enabled to judge for himself.

With regard to the correspondence with the Rev. G. B. Kidd, the writer was equally consistent and decided in the expression of his sentiments and views, and it fortunately happens that he is enabled from early acquired habits of order to give the following correct copies of all these letters in their due place and respective dates. But first premising that the Rev. Mr. Kidd, having on Sunday afternoon the 17th June, 1838, read from his pulpit a MS. notice or address to his congregation respecting the Schools in question, and this, be it observed, took place only two or three days previous to the writer's intention of leaving Scarborough upon an annual visit to London among his family and friends, which was generally

known in the place, and that at this time even his seat in the Mail had been engaged,—the writer, after the conclusion of the service, went into the vestry, and requested to have a sight of it, after which he returned it to Mr. Kidd and retired from the chapel without any remark; but immediately perceiving that it was drawn up, and read in his presence, so as that his silent acquiescence might hereafter be construed unfavourably to his just claims, or that his resistance to it might embarrass his projected journey, which had already been decided upon, he next morning early wrote and sent to Rev. Mr. Kidd the letter following:—

*Scarborough, Monday morning,  
18th June, 1838.*

MY DEAR SIR,

I did not think it right to discompose your mind yesterday, or disarrange the mode of your communication last evening, respecting the Lancasterian Schools, but having some time ago submitted my objections to the course pursued by its conductors in a letter to Mr. Henry Fowler, the then and I suppose the present Secretary of the Institution (which required an answer, although none has ever yet been given), I have only to say, that perfectly agreeing with you on the desirableness of it being adequately supported on its own intrinsic merits, the statement you made is, I conceive, founded on partial and incomplete views of the question, and consequently so far fallacious on the score of ordinary *business transactions*, which I cannot but consider to have been miserably mutilated and mismanaged by the discreditable proceedings of some parties, in denying the applicability of its pecuniary funds to any other objects than the current expenses of the establishment, and throwing out of account, as unworthy of notice, the liberal and generous advances of the original founders, not only without any just and honourable consideration, but very lately, *as in my particular case*, with the most marked intentional insult and obloquy, and attributing my opposition of such proceedings to sordid and corrupt motives.

On these accounts, I think, the Society can expect no permanent success in its operations; at any rate I shall think it my duty to protest against such conduct, as I have already done in part in my letter to Mr. Fowler, and which I now formally and fearlessly repeat to you, with the further assurance that, although open to conviction I trust, on this as on all occasions, I can never allow myself to be put down by clamour, or permit any one to impute improper motives to my opinions and conduct, without indignantly repelling the insult and injury intended thereby.

I remain, dear Sir, your most obedient Servant,  
 Rev. G. B. Kidd, Scarborough.                      GEORGE DAVIES.

The following is a Copy of the Rev. Mr. Kidd's answer:—

MY DEAR SIR,

I am much obliged to you for the kind consideration which led you to defer your remarks on the address respecting the Lancasterian Schools till to-day. The letter to which you refer was read at a Committee meeting (or at least was *produced*, and I think read throughout) at which I was present; I forget what decided: perhaps I was unable to stay the close.

Mr. H. Fowler accepted the office of Secretary, on the express understanding that the work was to be done chiefly by others. At a recent meeting of the friends of the Schools, Mr. W. Rowntree was nominated as his colleague or successor, and is now *virtually* the Secretary. If you wish it, I will hand your note to him, but at present feel myself precluded by urgent engagements from entering into a discussion relating to facts of a date long before my connexion with the Committee. Indeed, since that began, very little, almost nothing of the management has been taken by,

Dear Sir, yours very respectfully,  
 G. B. KIDD.

P.S.—I distinctly recollect that no terms of the kind

you mention were used at the meeting referred to, nor ever in my hearing in connexion with this business.

*Queen Street, June 18, 1838.*

An acknowledgment was returned to the foregoing on the same day:—

*Scarborough, Monday evening,*

MY DEAR SIR,

18 June, 1838.

In reply to your obliging note of this date, I can have no objection, indeed it is my particular wish, that the contents of mine to you of this morning should be brought under the special notice of all persons who feel interested in the good management of the affairs of the Schools, with a view to a better understanding of the rights of all parties, and particularly to remove some very calumnious aspersions and reflections which have recently been circulated, and indeed openly avowed to me in person, at the suggestion of others. But I disdain to notice such unworthy conduct of some individuals, and will on no account enter into any personal controversy on the subject. I shall only re-assert my former position, and shall constantly enforce it by every legitimate and proper means in my power, and upon all occasions.

I remain, Dear Sir, very respectfully yours,

Rev. G. B. Kidd, Scarborough.

GEORGE DAVIES.

The address publicly read by Mr. Kidd was in his own hand-writing, and in the course of Monday and Tuesday morning was circulated in a printed form generally through the town, and a copy left at my house, but it was unaccompanied by the writer's letters which stated the grounds of his dissent and dissatisfaction, and it was well understood that the writer had no opportunity of making them public, as he was immediately going from home, so that here the correspondence closed, and he took his departure on the same day.

Thus far it appears to have been the systematic scheme and general drift and tenor of conduct of the managing Committee

of the Schools, to discourage and impede all fair investigation or inquiry into the original grounds of the Institution, and to adopt any and every stratagem to deter the writer from the assertion of the just rights of himself and all others concerned and interested in the great questions of principle and justice which are mainly involved in this case; but hitherto, with that mysterious concert and consciousness of defect which would screen itself by taking advantage of the simplicity and want of business-like habits which are so frequently to be met with in persons of exalted worth in every other respect. This may account for the unenviable prominence which has been given by this subtle proceeding of the small party of Friends, or Quakers, and their immediate connexions, not merely on the suggestion of this otherwise laudable interference of the Rev. Mr. Kidd, but in the still more extended ramification and development of the scheme in the subsequent correspondence of the President, Dr. Murray, which will hereafter be disclosed. However, before entering on this enlarged and progressively interesting view of the case, the writer would first insert one or two later notes which passed between the Rev. Mr. Kidd and himself on this same subject, as follows:—

*Scarborough, Wednesday evening,*

DEAR SIR,

13 November, 1839.

As I have again been subjected lately to renewed excitement and much irritating annoyance on account of my unfortunate connexion with the Lancasterian School here, I have felt myself indispensably called upon to submit to Dr. Murray, the President, a full and fair statement of the wrongful and unjust treatment I have received, in return for my good offices in the establishment or rather re-establishment of the Schools in 1813, and asserted my rightful claim to be heard and satisfied both on *pecuniary* and *personal* grounds. In such statements I was necessarily obliged to refer to a correspondence that took place between us sometime ago upon this very subject, and which I authorized you to com-

municate to the Secretary and Managers of the Schools, as I was going from Scarborough immediately. Not having had any direct communication from you that you had done so, and as it is a matter of increased urgency and importance, may I request of you to inform me whether you did or did not comply with my wish in this respect, and whether any and what results followed.

I hope I may not have occasion to trouble you further on this unpleasant business; and at any rate shall introduce your name as sparingly as I possibly can.

I am, dear Sir, your most obedient Servant,  
To Rev. G. B. Kidd. GEORGE DAVIES.

To this Mr. Kidd sent the following reply:—

DEAR SIR,

My memory told me, on reading your note, that I handed the correspondence referred to to Mr. W. Rowntree, as one of the Secretaries. This impression he has confirmed within the last half-hour. I thank you for the avoiding to make much use of my name, etc.

Yours very truly,

G. Davies, Esq.

G. B. KIDD.

Nov. 14.

These terminate the writer's *public* appeals to the Rev. Mr. Kidd, but not so his *private* intercourse, and he acknowledges with grateful pleasure several instances of this kind, but in none has he discovered any sympathy or wish to be of use in alleviating or diminishing the load of unmerited injury and difficulty with which he was quite aware the writer was encompassed, and which, in fact, his own indiscreet conduct, at the suggestion of others, had served rather to aggravate, as indeed was the evident object and intention of the instigators.

By the same persons, and with the same intentions, I have no doubt the two young Quaker brothers, George and James Mennell, were induced, (upon my calling at their shop on Thursday the 24th of October 1839), to offer the writer a gratuitous

insult, as the elder of them had done sometime before, but for which, upon giving up his authority, he had received forgiveness;—a repetition of such unworthy conduct occasioned the following letter to them the next morning :—

*Messrs. George and James Mennell.*

SIRS,

*Friday morning, 25th October, 1839.*

Persuaded as I am, and indeed as you have before confessed, that in the calumnious insinuations and charges which you have broached, and still continue to entertain, as to my connexion with the Lancasterian Schools, you have some prompter, whose object is anything but creditable, and considering also that you can have no personal knowledge of the original institution of these Schools, about thirty years ago, I am much disposed to pity and pardon your indiscretion in again obtruding your offensive remarks upon my notice; but I cannot so readily overlook the meanness that would convey a disguised insult on me by your medium, rather than by open and direct means—which latter, you may be sure, I should much prefer to any such dastardly and covert mode of annoyance. In consequence of what passed yesterday, and your imputing to me unjust and improper motives, I have had a restless night, which, in my situation, is no trifling matter, and I shall look for a frank explanation from you in reply, as to your real views and intentions by such conduct.

I remain, your sincere friend and well wisher,

GEORGE DAVIES.

To this civil letter, however, in the true spirit of their Quaker stoicism and self-importance, no answer whatever was returned. But it is material to observe here, that they, and G. M. especially, on this and several former occasions, had been urging me to take shares in the new-projected "Cliff Bridge and Spa Buildings' Association or Company," which

I constantly resisted; and, at last, to avoid their importunities, told them not to trouble me further on the subject, -having ever declined all such doubtful schemes and speculations in Scarborough, and that I would not have them, even for a gift. This rather disconcerted and nettled them, and they replied (as the writer has heard others observe), that, supposing the shares produced little or no interest, it would still indirectly benefit the shopkeepers and others, by the greater influx of strangers during the summer season, and that, consequently, the more shares that could be dispersed and disposed of, so much the better for the town. The writer knows not to what extent such shares may have been issued and sold, but the speculation being altogether a voluntary, and not a parliamentary undertaking, it concerns the holders of them to look to that, and not him. But can any reasonable person believe that these repeated provocations and insults had no determinate object? Be this as it may, the writer was resolved to enter into no connexion whatever with such schemes and speculations, as he never in any case countenanced or approved of, and which the parties themselves seemed to think were hopeless as such, and grounded chiefly on the principle of the additional business it might possibly create in the town; this also being very problematical and uncertain. No plan of insult or intimidation, however, shall deter him from espousing the cause of justice and right, and from asserting the interests of the widow and the fatherless, and of the aged and necessitous, who, helpless themselves, need some friend to interfere in their behalf.

The further development of this extraordinary, and somewhat delicate investigation, respecting the Lancasterian Schools, necessarily brings the writer, much to his regret, into contact with, or rather of amicable opposition to, his excellent friend Dr. Murray, the worthy President of these Scarborough Schools; and it was with extreme reluctance, and not without many painful sensations, that the writer at last, as a matter of paramount duty to others, as well as himself, made up his mind to



place the whole affair before that gentleman, in his official character, which he did by letter, of the 4th of November 1839, which has already been printed at page 3 of this present work. In fact, it is well known to many that he was visited with severe illness, but, by prompt and skilful management, happily not one of long duration, brought on entirely by the excitement and agitation of mind arising out of these conflicting sensations. But so soon as he had once determined on pursuing a straightforward course, regardless of consequences, he found his peace, and comfort, and health, considerably restored, and he reconciled himself to all puny attempts at misrepresentation or calumny, come from whatever quarter they might, by the consciousness of having never justly deserved them by any act of his own, especially from professed friends. However, in this respect he is not worse off than that distinguished "Friend", the celebrated Joseph Lancaster, a man of consummate self-possession and devotedness to the good of mankind, who, on more than one occasion, had to complain of the mortification of "being *worried, goaded, and even insulted* by his own friends" (exactly my case);—"and that the act, being the act of *individuals*, and not of the *body*" (of Quaker Friends), "was a stretch of authority which he did not expect, and would not submit to, although they had given him" (like myself) "a severe fit of the bile; and all the harm he" (good-humouredly) "wished might befall them was, that they would *take it again* and divide it among themselves, as they were many and he only one, and such division would make it light to them, and he would get rid of a heavy burthen at an easy rate." So true it is, and ever will be, that "a man's foes" (pre-eminently so) "shall be they of his own house" (Matt. x. 36); it is well, therefore, to know it, and to have the consolation of suffering in good company. For Dr. Murray, personally, the writer has long cherished a profound respect, and he believes the attachment has been mutually interesting and agreeable; but in matters of justice and principle, whilst he reserves to himself an uncontrolled right of private judgment,

he is willing to concede the same right to every other person. The letter last referred to, of 4th November, was read over, before it was sent, to a medical friend, who was attending upon him; and its delivery produced a desire for a personal interview, which, of course, could not be objected to; and on the 6th of November Dr. M. called about ten o'clock A.M., whilst at breakfast, and after a little general conversation he said, "he had received my letter of the 4th, and though he could not agree with me in everything, he should lay it before the Managers, and they would come to some conclusion soon: that Mr. John Rowntree was considered the best acquainted with the origin of the Schools, and intimated that they could not pay *one*, without paying *all*; but a few days would enable him and them to consider the matter in all its bearings; and that I should be informed very shortly." I quite approved of the course he had taken, and we parted very friendly. It appears the Doctor called a second and a third time, when I was either out, or particularly engaged, and did not see him, and not receiving any written communication from him in the course of a fortnight, the writer addressed a note to him, of which the following is a correct copy:—

DEAR SIR, *Scarborough, 18th November, 1839.*

You will, I know, permit me, with all possible courtesy to remind you, that a fortnight has just elapsed since the date of my last to you of the 4th instant, upon the subject of the Lancasterian Schools, and which I avowedly addressed to you, in due form, as President of the Institution, and have as yet had no reply to it, nor any other acknowledgment of it than the verbal notice you were so polite as to give me upon a friendly morning call at my house two days after. In the interim, however, I have ascertained, by a note from the Rev. Mr. Kidd, that my previous correspondence with him, some time since, on the same subject, had been, agreeably to my desire, placed in the hands of Mr. W. Rowntree, *one of the Secretaries*, for the purpose of being laid before the Managers,

and others in general; but whether it was so exhibited, or at all considered, Mr. Kidd says nothing. I was not before aware that the concerns of the Schools required the aid of more than one secretary, but under such a double system, there is the less excuse for any neglect or irregularity on their part. I wait with some interest to be informed by you, Sir, what course the Managers have resolved to pursue in this business, which you cannot but feel becomes every day more and more indispensably connected with the respectability and prosperity of the concern; and in this, as in every other action of my life, I challenge the most rigid scrutiny, and the most public examination and exposure, if in any instance I have erred from the path of rectitude and honour, however some may be disposed to reproach me in no very measured terms.

I remain, very respectfully, dear Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Peter Murray, Esq., M.D., etc. etc.      GEORGE DAVIES.

This produced an early reply, dated next day, as follows:—

DEAR SIR,

*Tuesday, November 19th.*

I have thus thrice been most unlucky in calling when you were engaged—once at breakfast (later than your usual hour, or I would not have intruded), another time at your dinner, and again just now—that there almost seems a spell against our meeting. The fact is, that having so often corresponded with you on the most agreeable matters, I felt reluctant to *write* on any thing unpleasant to one whose friendship and intercourse I so much value, and I hope and trust our future correspondence will not ever again be broken in upon by this displeasing and untoward topic. I laid your letter before Mr. John Rowntree, etc., and have never yet myself had an answer, probably from that gentleman having been much absent from home since November came in; and even *to-day, on inquiring*, I find he and many of the Society of Friends are at Pickering. I freely must say that I do not know the original agreement when the Lancasterian Schools

were established, or rather when a *change* took place in the *first* arrangements; but always deemed their constitution to resemble that of every other public *charitable* or *literary* institution in which I have been concerned, where no interest is ever looked for, and where *certain privileges* are given in lieu to the shareholders. Pardon me, my dear Sir, when I add that I cannot help thinking you have not taken *your usual clear view* of this business, and that there has been some *cross reading*, if we may so say. The funds, too, of this valuable School, the chief educational institution here for the *catholic religious instruction* of the poor, are far too depressed to enable it to pay off the debt, and one claim could not be paid to the exclusion of the other shareholders. As to the concluding passage of your note, I do not quite understand the meaning; but I am very sure that no man who *really knows* you would ever suspect your *honour* or *rectitude*; and as to the reproaches of others, they are not worth noticing.

Excuse this lengthy scrawl, of which I am heartily tired, and believe me, dear Sir,

Your faithful friend and obedient servant,

George Davies, Esq.

P. MURRAY.

This letter clearly shews that the Doctor did not officially call the whole of the Committee together, as the President of the Institution, and lay my letter before them, but, instead of doing so, "he laid it before Mr. John Rowntree, etc. etc." (most likely a few other of the Friends), "and had never yet himself had an answer, probably from that gentleman having been much absent from home since November came in, and even *to-day, on inquiring*, I find he and many of the Society of Friends are at Pickering," etc. This, to say the least, is certainly a very untoward beginning. I never expected Dr. Murray would have put my letter into the hands of Mr. John Rowntree, except for the purpose of getting a Committee meeting with as little delay as possible; however, Mr. Rowntree, it would seem, thought it expedient to take time and deliberate with his Society of Friends, not only at Scarborough, but also

at Pickering, but whether at a monthly or quarterly meeting of such Friends does not appear.

The Doctor then candidly admits thus much—"I freely must say that I do not know the original agreement when the Lancasterian Schools were established, or rather when a change took place in the first arrangements." Now this is frank and honest, and if he had kept to this, and thrown the *onus* of proof on the Committee, all would have been well; but he proceeds to a variety of fanciful theories of his own creation, or, what is more likely, were suggested to him by others, but, nevertheless, still distinctly admits *the existence of a debt* on the Institution, and *the inability to pay it off*. But has there ever been any disposition or effort made towards it, either in whole or in part?—None whatever. But a contrary disposition to shirk the question altogether; nor will the Friends, as a body, judging by experience, ever seriously set about it, so long as they can engross the patronage and funds of the Institution, and give them a direction entirely consonant to their own views, which will be more clearly shewn in the sequel. In short, whatever there may be of fairness and frankness in Dr. Murray's letter, I place wholly to the Doctor's account, and whatever of the reverse must be attributed to others; and it is in this light that the future correspondence must be viewed, because having placed himself in their hands, after confessing his ignorance of the original constitution of the Schools, and permitting them to hold over my letter, addressed to him, upwards of two months, without coming to any explanation or resolution upon it themselves, it is clear that they wished to avail themselves of the Doctor's personal influence and character, in order the better to answer their own purposes.

To Dr. Murray's letter of the 19th November, the writer sent the following reply:—

*Scarborough, Saturday Morning,  
23d November, 1839.*

DEAR SIR,

I beg to acknowledge with many thanks, your much esteemed letter of 19th instant, now before me. I cannot be

insensible to the many touching expressions of sincere friendship and personal regard which it contains, of which, however, I never doubted, and all of which I most cheerfully reciprocate, and shall be happy to exemplify on every occasion. It is, indeed, a great consolation to me, amidst the clamour of party bigotry, and the sallies of unmerited obloquy with which I have for so long time had to contend, that I can now recognise in you, my dear Sir, the polished gentleman, the faithful friend, and a cautious, consistent, and peace-loving member of the community. I only wish every one was like yourself, and then there would be more of real charity, and genuine urbanity, and good faith everywhere prevalent. But with respect to the main matter of business upon which, in my two former letters, I addressed you in your *public capacity* as "the President of the Lancasterian Schools," I would just observe, that as your communication of 19th instant above referred to contains the following candid confession; viz.—"I must freely admit that I do not know the original agreement when the Lancasterian Schools were established, or rather when a change took place in the first arrangements," etc., and as it likewise further states, "I laid your first letter (of the 4th instant) before Mr. John Rowntree, etc. etc., and have not yet myself had an answer, probably from that gentleman having been much absent from home since November came in, and *even to-day on inquiring*, I find he and many of the Society of Friends are at Pickering." Upon these accounts, I presume, you have found it difficult to convene a Public Meeting, so as to obtain that assistance and sanction which you must find so necessary in your peculiar situation; under such untoward circumstances I cannot but thoroughly approve of your declining to give any distinct and positive answer to my first letter, when you had it not before you to refer to (and of course could not be sufficiently prepared or authorized so to do), but rather chose to await the return of those gentlemen from Pickering, in order that they may, after so long and mature consideration and advice with each other, answer it for themselves and the Society they

represent, without exposing you to any additional trouble or inconvenience other than as the legitimate channel of its conveyance to me; and I am now waiting such answer without anxiety, through your auspicious medium, and trust I shall be favoured with it at the earliest possible opportunity.

Remaining as ever, my dear Sir,

Yours very respectfully and faithfully,

Peter Murray, Esq. M.D., etc.

GEORGE DAVIES.

More than a week having expired from the date of this letter without receiving any communication from Dr. Murray, the writer was induced to address him again on the subject by the following note:—

*Scarborough, Wednesday Morning,*

DEAR SIR,

*4th December, 1839.*

Ten days having elapsed since I last addressed you on the 23rd ultimo, upon the subject of the Lancasterian Schools, and exactly one month since the date of my first application of the 4th ultimo was made to you, by the exhibition of such facts and arguments as I humbly conceive deserved the serious attention of every person concerned, but without having as yet elicited any notice whatever from the Officers and Managers in reply thereto; I am again obliged, out of great respect and deference to you *personally*, and in despite of my own feelings on the subject, to make this further public appeal through your medium, to every due sense of equity and propriety, for the expression of their deliberate judgment and determination upon the case I have stated and mean to adhere to, until I am convinced of my error by any counter-statement of facts and reasonings which it may be possible for them to adduce and substantiate, to invalidate the same.

I should be sorry if, after thirty years connexion with Scarborough, I am still so little known as that any one could suppose I would sedulously and constantly persist in any matter of public business, but upon *conviction and principle*; and that, having at all times so steadily engaged in it, I should

now, at my age, cease from pursuing it in a straightforward and honourable manner, perfectly regardless of all intimidation, whether open or covert, and the more subtle snares of seductive influence or inconsiderate example, come from whatever quarter they may; for I unhesitatingly maintain that the existence of good faith and general confidence in all public transactions of a pecuniary character are necessarily involved in its consequences, and that even the higher considerations of sound moral feeling and judicious expediency are deeply concerned therein. You will perceive, therefore, that I do not contend for barren speculations or groundless chimeras, but for most important realities and beneficial practical results, more or less affecting every department of society and of civilized life: and let the issue be successful or otherwise, I am resolved to do my duty so far as I can conscientiously discern it, and it is my earnest wish and confident expectation that you will do the same in your *public* capacity, as it is well known you do in all your *private* concerns. I therefore have good reason to rely on your early acknowledgment of this and my former letter of 23d ult., and also to be favoured with the results of your communications with the gentlemen from Pickering and other friends capable of giving, and whose duty it is to give you, advice and assistance in this very unpleasant business to both of us.

I remain, dear Sir, yours very respectfully and truly,

GEORGE DAVIES.

Peter Murray, Esq. M.D., etc.,

President of the Scarborough Lancastrian Schools.

To these two last letters Dr. Murray was pleased to send the following answer, which was delivered on the morning of the 5th December:—

DEAR SIR,

*Belle Vue, December 4th, 1839.*

I can assure you that you need not have suspected me of forgetfulness of my promise to acquaint you whenever your application had been laid before the Committee of the Lancas-



terian Schools; and *now* I beg leave to add, that a Committee will be held on some evening in the *latter part* of next week, preparatory to the general examination, etc. of the children, when your application will be discussed, and the result without delay sent to you by the *Secretaries* as the official organs of the Managers, which will be far more proper than continuing this correspondence on so unpleasant a topic, which can lead to nothing more profitable or agreeable, especially as contrasted with the very many pleasing and instructive letters which were wont to pass formerly between you and me; and though I must at once decline the persevering in the present disagreeable correspondence, still I always shall look back with pleasure on that of past hours, and *always* shall be happy to renew it, observing at the same time that *this subject*, so much regretted, did not *originate with myself*, and seems to me to hang upon the most insignificant cause.

Let me again, my dear Sir, remark that the funds of the Lancasterian Schools have never been in a condition to pay off the Shareholders; any legacy, etc. being swallowed up to meet the current expenses, and therefore, on the ground of fair dealing, not any thing appears to be more unfair or indecorous than the payment of *one Shareholder* to the exclusion of the rest; and to pay all, is plainly impossible. The position seems just the same with the shareholders in the Cliff Bridge, Museum, and Library, here, and innumerable institutions elsewhere, where the holders of shares receive certain rights and privileges equivalent to certain annual subscriptions, and if discontented with such, never look to the Company for the *value of their shares*, but must bring them into the *public market*, where the worth of a thing is what it will bring. Without doubt you are fully aware that this valuable School has for years been assisted by many of its subscribers far beyond their *annual gifts*, or otherwise the Institution could not have gone on. And now, in conclusion, believe me,

Dear Sir, your faithful friend,

George Davies, Esq.

P. MURRAY.

It is rather remarkable that no distinct reference by date is made to either of the two letters, to which however *this* letter seems intended as an answer. It is equally indefinite and indistinct as to the time of the meeting of the Committee, and no less so as regards the main object of those letters, which was simply to obtain an official answer from the Committee, not the *private opinions* of Dr. Murray, which in a manner foretels their decision, and would forbid the continuance of the correspondence "on so unpleasant a topic, which can lead to nothing profitable or agreeable." In short, exactly such remarks as would be suggested to him by those of the Society of Friends with whom he had deposited my several letters, and whose anticipated aid he would seem to have invoked and pre-engaged, and to have undertaken their defence as their chosen leader and interpreter, even a full month before the promulgation of their own *pompous resolution* took place. Such being the view taken of this answer by the writer of this History or Narrative Statement, he purposely passed over in silence all that Dr. M.'s good friends had suggested to him, calculated to mislead by their ingenious devices and plausible sophistries, and which the Doctor had thus set forth and advanced in their behalf, without adequate information or authority, being himself, as he had before admitted, quite unacquainted with the merits of the case, in these emphatic words—"I must freely say that I do not know the original agreement when the Lancasterian Schools were established," etc. But justly appreciating, however, Dr. M.'s benevolent and honourable feelings, the writer very readily responded to them, with all due consideration and courtesy, by the following note :—

MY DEAR SIR,                      *Scarborough, 16th December, 1839.*

After the very decided expression of your sentiments (and permit me to say, with no unkindly feeling towards you, before inquiry and investigation) contained in your last favour of the 4th instant, you may be assured that it is with extreme

reluctance I again take up my pen upon a subject which I can truly say is quite as disagreeable to me as it can be to you. But we are equally involved in the matter, and are bound to go through with it, *on public grounds*, and on *public grounds alone*. You say, and say very truly, "this subject did not originate with myself." I reply—Neither did it originate with me, but is of long standing, as my first letter of 4th November last most fully demonstrates. I shall be rejoiced indeed, with you, when the grounds of the present suspension of our former friendly intercourse shall be removed out of the way, by a frank and full confession of any errors or faults on either side. But in the proper elucidation of these matters, involving, as I confidently assert, *principles and considerations of the gravest importance*, it has always been my practice through life to apply to *head-quarters* for the representation and redress of any grievance, rather than to underlings in office. It was so in early life, when in a foreign country, and under a military government, with only few friends, and but little known, and it has continued with me to the present time, with less, indeed, of bodily or mental energy, but abundantly compensated by the accession of valuable and esteemed friends, wherever I have lived long enough to be known; and, notwithstanding our present apparent division, I do assure you, Sir, I will never quarrel with one I so much esteem as yourself (say or think whatever you may about me), nor will I, by God's help, render myself unworthy of yours, or knowingly do anything to sully my name, character, or station, by any discreditable or dishonourable conduct whatever; and one of our mutual friends has lately said, "It is a pity that circumstances should have placed two such men (I mean no empty compliment) in an opposite position." Sir, I reiterate the sentiment, and lament the cause.

I have thus briefly, I hope not offensively, apologised I need not say, but accounted for the necessity of the present address, and shall proceed now to state the intention and design of it, in as few words as the case may require

Last Thursday morning, 12th instant, I received a note, *a very extraordinary one truly*, signed "Wm. Rowntree," written, he says, as "one of the Secretaries of the Lancasterian Schools;" it bears date the preceding evening, and was, of course, dictated while fresh in his memory, at or immediately after the meeting of the Committee of Managers that same evening. This was precise and praiseworthy conduct on his part; but how is it, I would ask, that it does not bear the signatures of the two joint Secretaries? Since your last letter to me, of the 4th instant, contains these *emphatic words*, viz., "A meeting of the Committee will be held on some evening in the *latter part* of next week, etc., when your application will be discussed, and the result, without delay, sent to you by *the Secretaries*, as the official organs of the Managers."

From these plural words, so prominently marked by yourself in the MS., how is it, I repeat, that this short and most extraordinary note was not signed by *both* the Secretaries, instead of one? Was there any disagreement subsisting, or was the dissident Secretary unwilling to commit himself to the *bold experimental measure* of his coadjutor in office? I make no further comment on the matter, than that it disagrees with your previous letter, and that there seems a *mystery* about it which time alone will reveal.

I surmise, however, the secret meaning is, that the Quaker Secretary writes for and as his sect and party wished him to write, but that the other Methodist or Independent Secretary thought proper to omit his signature, for reasons which he considered prudent and just ones. Upon the very form and structure, therefore, of this extraordinary note, I take a decided preliminary objection, not because I am much surprised, much less alarmed at it, but because of its informality,—and because knowing well by experience the dilatory and evasive course of practice observed among *many* of the Society of Friends (*not all*)—I could not but anticipate something of the same kind on the present occasion; and believe me, dear Sir, I pay you only a well-merited compliment when I say, that,

but for your gentlemanly connexion in the Presidentship of this Institution, I might have waited a long time indeed, without even getting this sorry, this very unsatisfactory, note from any of them. For proof of this remark, I must again beg leave to refer you to my first letter of the 4th of November last.

But I not only object to this note in point of *form*, but insist also that in point of *law, equity and justice*, it is altogether unreasonable and indefensible. Upon the very face of it a claim is admitted to exist on my part against the Managers of the Institution, which they will not condescend to enter upon the consideration of (after twenty-five or twenty-seven years' patient endurance, and regardless of repeated representations and remonstrances), without first exacting, or attempting to exact, an unlawful, an unreasonable, and let me add an *impracticable* condition, and which they know in their own consciences to be so; their demand being that I should first give them, or a sub-committee appointed by them, the examination of a certain *Trust-deed*, which they artfully insinuate I possess, and which, by possibility, might tend to establish my claim, not with any view, express or implied, of allowing it, but that they may find some plausible pretext for still keeping the question in agitation and uncertainty, and by such means defeat or defer those claims with the quibbling and sophistry of their own invention. Now can anything be more monstrous than this!! They either imagine, by this concession on my part, to be able to arm themselves with weapons so furnished, to nullify my pretensions (but they are greatly mistaken), or, on the other hand, if I refuse to accede to their unreasonable demand (as I well might do), that such refusal will afford them a poor and pitiful pretext to prolong the issue of the discussion indefinitely, on account of such non-compliance. With some such views the Quaker Secretary is instructed to add to his note aforesaid, the following kind and characteristic intimation, that "the sub-committee will be glad to consult thy convenience, but one of them is absent."

Now, Sir, it is my design to defeat them in such a nefarious project, and therefore, without any sort of necessity, and, indeed, in defiance of their wily schemes and stratagems, I hereby offer you the *private inspection of the only deed* I ever had in my hands respecting this Institution, but it is not the Deed declaratory of the Trusts, commonly called the *Trust-deed*, which deed I never possessed or had any right to possess, being one of the parties and co-Trustees named therein of the Schools in question, and however *startling the assertion may seem*, I have no hesitation in saying that I verily believe THE ROWNTREE FAMILY ARE NOW IN POSSESSION OF IT, or *know where it is to be found*, because I always understood and believed that the elder John Rowntree, deceased, had it in his care and keeping, as the then chief of the Friends' Society, and principal mover (though no money-lender) in the origin of the Institution; and indeed, considering his deservedly high character in all respects, where could it have been more properly placed than with him; whereas, in my hands, it might have been mislaid or lost, amidst the changes and chances of this transitory state. But be this as it may, I know nothing more about it than that I believe it was enrolled, or intended so to be, and that in such case an office copy may be obtained upon payment of the fees.

With regard to the Deed in my possession, and that which of right appertains to me, as the first-named in it, and is so indorsed, this also is registered, and relates exclusively to the *freehold tenure of the property* in question, which I hold, as well in my own right, as for sustaining the rights and interests of others, consequently cannot surrender it up in my lifetime, nor would my executors do so without the settlement of my just claims, under and by virtue of it. Nevertheless, in order to convince you, and every reasonable person, of the equity of my conduct in this affair, from *first to last*, I shall forego every objection that I might justly have urged to gratify idle and captious inquirers, and thus defeat the scheme and object of all such persons, by at once offering, freely and voluntarily, to

produce to you, Sir, and Mr. Weddell, jointly or separately, the Deed which I possess, and am further willing to give a copy of it, upon having a similar declaration on the part of the Committee that I may inspect, and have a copy of the Trust-deed, whenever and wherever it may be found, and being satisfied in regard to my own individual claims.

But with respect to the attendance of Mr. John Rown-tree at my house, I can only say, that for the present it must be dispensed with, for obvious reasons, and which, therefore, need not be particularized. I must request your earliest acknowledgment of this letter, with some distinct intimation of the final Resolution of the Committee of Managers upon it, because I cannot let the matter rest over this or the ensuing week, without taking other and more decisive measures, or at least beginning to do so.

I remain, dear Sir,

Your sincere friend and obedient servant,

P. Murray, Esq., M.D., etc.

GEORGE DAVIES.

President of the Lancasterian Schools.

The preceding letter induced Dr. M. immediately to return a very polite note, an extract only from which having been previously inserted at p. 7, it is now copied verbatim as follows:—

DEAR SIR,

I have just read over your favour of the 16th instant; and now and ever let me express my kindest and friendliest feelings to yourself, and my gratification and thanks for those feelings so fully and openly reciprocated by you.

As to the unlucky difference of opinion between us, I cannot but deem you in the wrong, and every man has a right to his own opinion, but this does not affect my private regard, especially when I repeat my firm conviction that the cause of difference is utterly worthless, and below your consideration or mine. Excuse me when I say so,—but actually the whole affair is one in which I cannot conceive that I have any

business to involve myself at all, merely as a subscriber and friend of the School, and I adhere quite decidedly to my expressed determination *never to enter upon* the discussion, and shall even beg leave to *decline* the courteous and manly offer you have been so good as to make of *looking over* the Deed, etc. which you hold. But still believe me, dear Sir,

Ever your faithful friend,

*Belle Vue, Tuesday, December 17th.*

P. MURRAY.

P.S.—Wednesday morning.—I have opened my letter just to add, that I did *not* attend this last meeting of the Lancasterian School Committee.

In this note, Dr. Murray gives no further intimation of the meeting of the Committee upon the subject of my first and subsequent letters, yet it appears that a preparatory meeting took place, prior to the annual meeting of the Institution, for the examination of the children, and for general purposes, which was held at the Town Hall on the 21st December, but still without any notice being taken or any reply made to either of those letters in their public capacity as a Committee. Yet as the writer's object was not to disturb the General Meeting by the premature agitation of this question then and there, nor even to divulge the existence or course of the pending controversy to any unofficial person, lest it might possibly injure the interests of the School, until such Annual Meeting was over, he did not further apply to the President, Dr. Murray, until two or three days after the meeting was held, when he sent him the following letter:—

MY DEAR SIR,

*Scarborough, 24th December, 1839.*

I have the honour and pleasure to acknowledge your favour of 17th instant; and while I am deeply sensible of the kind and friendly manner in which you are pleased to express yourself towards me personally, I can never forget that, in truth, our respective situations and duties are unfortunately opposed to each other, on *public* grounds, as far as regards the Lancasterian School question. On this account I have always



studiously avoided noticing or replying to your own *private opinions* and advice; not because I was at all convinced or influenced by them, on the contrary, if I wanted a justification of my own views and conduct, I would desire no better materials for a defence than those expressed opinions and advice would afford; but, Sir, I will not hastily, nor without being forced to it, resort to any such measure; and all I ask is, that by your instrumentality, as President, I may be informed at what time you communicated my last letter to the Committee of Managers, and what may be *their deliberate and united decision* on this important—yes, very important controversy, to me at least, although you may think it below your consideration, carried on so long, and hitherto so fruitlessly; or whether I am still to be put off with the short and shabby note which the Quaker secretary, W. Rowntree, addressed to me on the 11th instant, and which you yourself could not but repudiate, by declining to act on the Sub-Committee named therein. Until I receive your formal notification that as President of the Institution you will not take any further measures in the business, I must presume that you will do your duty in that honourable and respectable situation, by calling the Committee together, and collecting their united and decided sentiments, and that in the course of a very few days I may expect to hear from you that they have done so, and the results. It may occasion some little trouble, but we must not regard that in the discharge of a *public duty*.

I remain, dear Sir,

Your faithful friend and obedient servant,

Peter Murray, Esq. M.D. etc.

GEORGE DAVIES.

President of the Scarborough Lancasterian Schools.

Dr. Murray's acknowledgment of the foregoing letter is next in order, as follows:—

DEAR SIR, Scarborough, 27th December, 1839.

I merely delayed acknowledging your last note of 24th till the return of the gentlemen of the Lancasterian School

Committee belonging to the Society of Friends, who were in York, at a monthly meeting, and having given (as I before stated *twice*) the affairs into the hands of the members of the Committee, who are representatives of the original shareholders, or else officials, without doubt no needless or disrespectful delay will occur on their parts, but either at the next *ordinary* meeting, or even perhaps at an *extraordinary* meeting, they will come to a final decision. Allow me to add that you misconceived my motive of absence from the Committee Meeting, which communicated with you through one of the Secretaries, Mr. W. Rowntree—I was hindered by an engagement quite unconnected, and mentioned the fact to shew my consistency, in not having taken any further part in this *to me* trivial dispute; *but as you say* it is of moment to you, I am bound to believe you think so, and deeply lament it being so. Your former letter, replied to by me on the 17th, was placed in the hands of the Secretaries the same day, the 17th.

I remain, dear Sir, your very sincere friend,

G. DAVIES, Esq.

P. MURRAY.

This letter is chiefly remarkable for the express admission it makes of his entire inability to give any answer "till the return of the gentlemen of the Lancasterian School Committee belonging to the Society of Friends, who were at York, at a monthly meeting," etc. Previous meetings of the Committee had, however, been held at Scarborough in the course of December, and various matters there arranged in reference to the Schools, yet the *promised* answer of the Committee had not been returned; and now it seems, that in addition to the Pickering meeting of Friends, it was deemed expedient to await the issue of further consultations and deliberations of a monthly meeting of the Society of Friends in the city of York, and until the return of the Scarborough Friends from such meeting nothing could be definitively settled. At length, upon the return of these expected Friends from York, a meeting of

the Committee, or *certain Members* of it, took place, and then, and not before, the announcement of the result of such meeting, which had been so long in suspense, made its appearance in the shape of a *Resolution*, and dated the 7th January 1840, and the same was transmitted to the writer by the two Secretaries on the following day, in such form and manner as has already appeared in detail at p. 7 of this History, and which was, a few days after, followed up by the solemn Protest of the writer against that Resolution, by his letters, both to Dr. Murray the President, and also to the Secretaries, which have been presented to the reader in the early part of this History, at pp. 8-9.

No movement on the part of the Committee or Dr. Murray having been made in consequence of the foregoing Protest, the writer again was obliged to address a note to the President to the following purport:—

DEAR SIR, *Scarborough, 24th January, 1840.*

I request you will be pleased to supply me with a list of the names of the gentlemen who are members of the Committee of the Lancasterian Schools, and also with that of the Treasurer at the present time, and distinguishing those who composed the Committee-meeting, and their Chairman, of the 7th of January instant, who, by the report of their Secretaries, unanimously passed a Resolution which they were directed to send to me, and the particulars of which, together with my Protest against the same, I communicated to you in my letter of the 13th instant, as the prime official organ of the Institution, to which I beg leave to refer.

I have the honour to remain, dear Sir,

Yours very respectfully,

Peter Murray, Esq., M.D. etc.      GEORGE DAVIES.  
President of the Scarborough Lancasterian Schools.

A reply from Dr. Murray was received the following day, as follows:—

DEAR SIR,

*Belle-Vue, January 25, 1840.*

In reply to your note of yesterday, allow me at once to repeat that, on the subject of the Lancasterian Schools controversy, I must decline any correspondence, as our opinions differ so widely, which, but for former associations, I should express far more freely; only in conscience I must add my firm hope and conviction, that a School so intended for the scriptural and general instruction of the poor will have the blessing of God, and that no attempts to injure it ever will prosper.

I must beg leave to refer you for any such information as you require to the Secretaries, Messrs. Collins and William Rowntree, as the official organs of the Committee,

And remain, dear Sir, your very obedient servant,

George Davies, Esq.

P. MURRAY.

The worthy President having thus, from the first, hastily adopted a one-sided view of the case, seems very unwilling to hear anything more about it, and partly governed by the insidious advice and opinions of others, and partly following his own benevolent propensities, he appears to have forgotten, for the time, all considerations of equity and individual claims of justice, as matters of little or no concern to him or them. Nevertheless, in consequence of his reference to the Secretaries for the information required, the writer addressed a note to those functionaries in the following terms:—

SIRS,

*Scarborough, Monday, 27th January, 1840.*

In pursuance of a letter which I received on Saturday last (25th) from Dr. Murray, President of the above Institution, authorising me to apply to you for a correct list of the names of the present Members of the Committee of the said Schools, and the Treasurer thereof; and distinguishing in such list the names of those of the Committee and the Chairman who were present at a meeting thereof on the 7th instant, which passed a Resolution affecting my interests (with that of others), and a copy of which Resolution you were instructed

to forward to me, as per your letter of the 8th instant. I do now hereby apply to you for the required information on these several points, with as little delay as possible, and remain, Sirs,

Your very obedient servant,

GEORGE DAVIES.

Messrs. W. Rowntree and B. Collins,  
Secretaries of the Scarborough Lancasterian Schools.

Their answer of the same date incloses—

“A printed copy of a Report, which contains lists of the Committees (both of ladies and gentlemen) with the several officers of the Lancasterian Schools;” but with respect to the *pinching* part of the inquiry, they decline to afford any discovery in the following brief and vague manner, viz.—“The further information you require we defer giving until we have orders to that effect. Your letter shall be laid before the next meeting.”

(Signed)      B. COLLINS, }  
                    W. ROWNTREE, } *Secretaries.*

As such reply most carefully omitted to specify the names of the Chairman and Members of the Committee who were present, and as stated, *unanimously* passed the Resolution of the 7th January; nor even gave any clear intimation of the time *when* the *next* meeting of the Committee would take place, the writer, considering it as a palpable evasion on their part, immediately wrote to Dr. Murray as follows:—

*Scarborough, Monday Evening,*

DEAR SIR,

*27th January, 1840.*

According to your desire, in your letter of Saturday last, 25th instant, I have this day applied to Messrs. Rowntree and Collins, the Secretaries of the above Institution, and have just received their answer to a part of my requisition by the inclosure of the last General Report of the same, adopted at an Annual Meeting holden at the Town Hall, on the 20th December last, containing the names of the several Officers of the Schools, etc. But with regard to my special desire to be

furnished with the names of the Chairman and the particular members of the Committee Meeting of the 7th of January instant, they decline complying with it, in the following terms, viz.—“The further information you require, we decline giving, until we have orders to that effect. Your letter shall be laid before the next meeting.”

Thus the material part of my requisition is evaded and held in suspense indefinitely—since no day is assigned to any such meeting—and, in consequence, I am again reluctantly compelled to seek your interference and assistance, in order to obtain the desired information at some precise and early period, and to favour me with an intimation of the same with as little delay as possible.

I am, dear Sir, your very obedient Servant,

GEORGE DAVIES.

P. Murray, Esq., M.D. etc. etc.

President of the Scarborough Lancastrian Schools.

This letter produced a short, and really somewhat tart reply from the esteemed President, declining all correspondence and all information, of every sort:—

*Belle Vue, Monday Evening,*

*January 27.*

DEAR SIR,

It was only on last Saturday, the 25th, that I reiterated my positive determination *not* to maintain any correspondence on the Lancastrian School question, and therefore beg you will excuse me, once for all, repeating the same.

I have the honour to be, dear Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

Geo. Davies, Esq.

P. MURRAY.

The writer, not willing unnecessarily to risk disturbing the mental tranquillity of the President, much less of wounding his feelings, again made application to the two Secretaries by the following note:—

SIRS, *Scarborough, 28th January, 1840.*

Since I received your letter of yesterday's date I have communicated with Dr. Murray, the President of the Institution, upon the vague and unsatisfactory answer returned to my concluding request, to be furnished with the names of the Chairman and the members of the Committee who, by your report, passed a unanimous Resolution affecting me on the 7th of January instant, and especially as to the *uncertainty* thereof as expressed in the following words; viz.—

“The further information you require, we defer giving, until we have orders to that effect. Your letter shall be laid before the next meeting.”

I must now, therefore, desire to be informed, explicitly, when that next meeting which you refer to is expected to take place; and, afterwards, what may be the result of such meeting, having, as you promised, laid my letter before them.

I am, Sirs, your obedient Servant,

GEORGE DAVIES.

Messrs. W. Rowntree and B. Collins,  
Secretaries of the Scarborough Lancasterian Schools.

To the very reasonable requests contained in the foregoing note, the Secretaries were pleased to return the following answer :—

^SIR,

We are favoured with your letter of this date, acquainting us that you had communicated with Dr. Murray on the subject of ours of yesterday, which you describe as vague and unsatisfactory, and desiring to be informed, explicitly, when the next meeting of the Committee is expected to take place.

We beg to inform you that we have received no instructions from Dr. Murray to furnish you with the names of the members present at any of the Committee meetings—

And that we are unable to state confidently when the Committee will again meet, but suppose it may be in the course of a few weeks.

We beg further respectfully to add, that as the Committee have come to a decided conclusion on your claim, which decision has been communicated to you, we must, pending their orders to the contrary, decline further correspondence on the subject.

We remain, Sir, yours respectfully,

B. COLLINS, } *Secretaries to the*  
W. ROWNTREE, } *Lancasterian Schools.*

*Scarborough, 28th January, 1840.*

Geo. Davies, Esq.

Upon the foregoing epistle there are two or three principal points to be remarked upon, as follows:—

1. They had “received no instructions from Dr. Murray to furnish names,” etc. Possibly very true; but were they at all necessary in this case?
2. “Unable to state confidently when the Committee will again meet, but suppose it may be in the course of a few weeks.” A mere attempt to shirk the question, by involving it in obscurity and uncertainty.
3. “The Committee having come to a decided conclusion on your claim, which decision has been communicated to you, we must decline all further correspondence on the subject, pending their orders to the contrary.”

What! not even to afford the simple satisfaction of knowing the *name of* the Chairman, and of those members of the Committee who were present and passed the Resolution, and which could alone give it validity or effect? Are they then really, one and all, so much afraid or ashamed to be known to the public or me? And herein appears a well-concerted plan to annoy the writer, and deter him from the prosecution of what he considers the just rights of himself and others, by the practice of such shifts and subterfuges as, in the transactions of ordinary life between individuals of any character, would be



held in the highest degree discreditable. If the Chairman and members of the Committee who actually met and passed the Resolution are so very confident of the grounds upon which they proceeded, and yet are so anxious to conceal their names, why are those (including Dr. Murray, the President) who *did not* attend, or sanction such Resolutions, so ready to avow it? However, as both Dr. Murray and the Secretaries had agreed to suspend the matter for awhile in this state of uncertainty, the writer availed himself of this temporary inactivity to address the following letter to Dr. Murray, touching a *private* and *personal* matter, which that gentleman had thought proper to introduce into one of his late notes, and which, as between intimate friends, the writer could not possibly pass over without asking from him some proper explanation, as silence on his part might have admitted of various unfavourable constructions.

Thus situated, the writer, upon due consideration transmitted to him the ensuing letter, viz.—

DEAR SIR, *Scarborough, 5th February, 1840.*

My official correspondence with you in your public ministerial character being for the present in abeyance, I avail of it to address you on a private affair between us, and in which, you may be sure, I have felt a deep interest, as well as several of our friends.

I refer to a passage in your late note to me of 25th ultimo, the following words, viz.—“Which but for former associations I should express far more freely.” Now Sir, I beg leave, in all sincerity, to release you from any supposed suppression of the truth, by any such a reservation as this, and must desire a full and proper explanation of it, rendered very important in my estimation by any thing proceeding from such a quarter.

I am, dear Sir, your obedient Servant,  
 Peter Murray, Esq., M.D. etc. GEORGE DAVIES.  
*Belle Vue.*

This private and personal application on one particular point produced a long and somewhat rambling dissertation from Dr. Murray, on topics of a very general nature. The answer is as follows:—

DEAR SIR, *Scarborough, February 5th, 1840.*

It is with regret that I must now formally decline any further correspondence, however distantly it may bear on the Lancasterian School question, the *frivolous amount* of which is, whether you are to receive eighteen shillings in money, or recommendations of admission for children equal to a subscription of *one guinea* annually. Now, my dear Sir, do, for once only dispassionately consider, is this difference between eighteen shillings or one-and-twenty shillings so mighty a matter as to be worth the paper which has been written upon? In courtesy to a gentleman and in regard to a friend, and to *former associations*, I have now replied, but be assured that *I will not again*, which, with concern, I thus declare, and am,

Dear Sir, your humble Servant,

P. MURRAY.

P. S. I cannot help thinking there must be some misconception of my words alluded to in your last note, though they seem to me plain enough; but if it will only save you but one moment's uneasiness or anxiety, let me add, that those words relate not to any *suppressed facts*, but to *restrained opinion* as to the impropriety of your claim upon the Lancasterian School, which assuredly I should have expressed with stronger disapprobation to a stranger or indifferent person.

*Thursday Morning, February 6th.*

P. M.

The general question of the Lancasterian Schools, which the writer had supposed to be for awhile lying dormant, and which his last letter had not so much as touched upon, is here again revived;—its *frivolous* nature and amount descanted upon,—the difference being merely, as stated, between receiving eighteen shillings or paying one guinea, is discussed with some tact and ingenuity, according to the light and permission

which those who had pre-engaged the Doctor as their pleader and champion enabled him to exercise; but even all this careful effort at mystification but manifests and demonstrably proves the hollowness of the assertions of their own Resolution, viz.—“That no expectation of money interest was held out,”—which the Committee, or at least some of them, must have known to be contrary to the fact, even when they passed that Resolution, and which will appear more fully hereafter. But with regard to the required explanation of the peculiarly striking and pointed observations referred to in the Doctor's former letter, and which simply and singly courted his reply, it is, like many other epistles, chiefly to be found in the post-script; and from this it would seem the words complained of did not relate to “any *suppressed facts*, but to *restrained opinion* as to the propriety of your claim on the Lancasterian School,” etc. Why really one cannot help saying that the Doctor seems throughout to have felt himself at liberty to give *his opinions* most freely, very plentifully, and in great variety, so much so that the writer or reader may be curious to know how he could find words more strongly to express those opinions than he has already used, even though they were addressed “to a stranger or indifferent person.” But, in truth, it is not by strong expression of *opinion* merely, but by well-attested *facts*, that the question between us can be fairly considered and decided upon, and of these *latter* the Doctor's letters are exceedingly sparing indeed;—*declamatory* they may be, but *demonstrative* they certainly are not; and every one, even the Doctor himself, must admit that a sound and successful logician must not only be *suaviter in modo*, but likewise *fortiter in re*. With these impressions and views, the writer addressed the following answer to the last letter:—

DEAR SIR, Scarborough, 11th February, 1840.

Your letter of the 5th instant, purporting to be a reply to mine of that date, and the P.S. thereto of next morning, I have duly received, and with a renewal of the pain your

preceding one gave me, leaves the business between us a very serious affair.

You have passed an opinion upon my principles and conduct, that I feel to be unwarranted by any of the facts:—instead of being actuated by *frivolous motives*, and for *frivolous ends*, I am contending for *just principles* and *well-ascertained facts*, which resting upon documents cannot be denied, in reference to which alone the pecuniary part of the subject becomes of importance; and you must permit me to say, that a more intimate knowledge of the subject upon which you treat, would have prevented you from censuring the course of my proceedings—and still more from imputing *frivolous* and *unworthy* motives, which, thank God, I feel I never deserved.

Your P.S. of the next morning does not at all vary my decided opinion as to the object and design of your letter of the evening before, but rather affords additional confirmation, if any were needed, of its tendency.

I am, dear Sir, your obedient servant,

P. Murray, Esq., M.D. etc.

GEORGE DAVIES.

*Belle Vue.*

No notice whatever having been taken of this letter, nor any communication from the Secretaries for about a fortnight, the writer was again obliged to remind each of these parties of the state of the business in the letters following:—

DEAR SIR, *Scarborough, 24th February, 1840.*

Your last favour of the 5th instant was altogether so peremptory and discouraging, that although I could not help taking some notice of it on personal, as on public grounds (but chiefly the former), by my letter of the 11th instant, which I sent by my servant, and to which I am without any reply, yet, without any discourtesy on my part, I cannot but repeat, that the opinion you seem to entertain of my principles and conduct, I feel to be quite unwarranted by any of the facts, for that instead of being actuated by *frivolous motives* and for *frivolous ends*, I am contending for *just principles*—which

admit of no compromise—and *well-authenticated facts*, resting upon documents which cannot be denied.

My present object is, moreover, to convey to you a copy of my letter of this date, addressed to the Secretaries of the Lancasterian Schools, and which I respectfully submit to you also, as the President of the same, in accordance with my usual practice at Gibraltar in early life, and ever since: and I beg leave at the same time to adopt the sentiments of a gallant officer, in command of the combined forces at the siege of that garrison, when addressing a courteous note to the equally gallant governor of that fortress, in the words following,—and “assure you of the high esteem I have ever had of your person and friendship; of the sincere desire I feel of deserving yours, and of the pleasure with which I look forward of becoming your friend, after I shall have learned to render myself worthy of that honour, by facing you as an enemy”—I will not say, but as a much injured and maligned opponent.

I remain, dear Sir, yours, very truly,

Peter Murray, Esq., M.D. etc. etc.

GEORGE DAVIES.

*Belle Vue.*

The passage marked with inverted commas was given *from memory* as the substance of the original occurrence, and with a slight verbal variation may be considered rather an accommodation, than an exact literal quotation of it.

The letter sent to the Secretaries, referred to in the foregoing, follows:—

SIRS,

*Scarborough, 24th February, 1840.*

Your latest communications of the 27th and 28th ult. are now before me. The latter has had no acknowledgment, because, as you say,—and I choose rather to quote your own words,—“we are unable to state confidently when the Committee will again meet, but suppose it may be in the course of a few weeks,” and you are pleased to add, that “as the Committee have come to a decided conclusion on your claim, which decision has been communicated to you, we must, pend-

ing their orders to the contrary, decline further correspondence on the subject." But as your first letter of the day preceding contains this assurance—"Your letter shall be laid before the next meeting"—and upon inquiring when that next meeting would take place, your answer is such as I have quoted above, I must again request to be informed whether any such meeting has since been held, and its direction to you in reference to my said letters, or if no such meeting has taken place, whether you are now able to state with certainty or probability when the same may be expected to be held for that purpose.

And in addition to the foregoing request I have now to state my further desire to you as the Secretaries of the Institution, and to claim at your hands, and of the President and Committee, that being one of the surviving parties to whom the premises, Schools, etc. were conveyed by indentures of Lease and Release, bearing date respectively the 12th and 13th of July, 1813; and certain trusts of which were declared by a separate deed, which declaration was lately said to be in my hands, but which I have been given to understand has since been discovered in the possession of another person, and is now under the cognizance and control of the Committee.

I am, therefore, desirous of inspecting such Trust Deed, as one of the parties interested, for the purpose of ascertaining precisely the nature of the Trusts, and of taking such extracts or copy as I may think necessary; and I have further to request that you will please make an early appointment for that purpose. Your answer will much oblige,

Sirs, yours respectfully,

Messrs. W. Rowntree and B. Collins,      GEORGE DAVIES.  
Secretaries of the Lancastrian Schools.

No reply from Dr. Murray was received at this time; but from the official Secretaries the following letter came to hand:—

SIR,      *Scarborough, 29th February, 1840.*  
We have now the pleasure to hand you the following

extract from the minutes of the Committee of the Lancasterian Schools, dated yesterday.—“Three letters from Mr. George Davies having been read, ordered that the Secretaries inform him that he is at liberty to inspect the deeds referred to in his of the 24th instant, on applying to Messrs. Hesp and Uppleby.”

We remain, Sir, yours respectfully,

To G. Davies, Esq.                      W. ROWNTREE, } Secretaries.  
B. COLLINS, }

In consequence of this letter, the writer applied to Messrs. Hesp and Uppleby by a note, as under:—

DEAR SIRs,                      *Scarborough, 2d March, 1840.*

Having received a note from Messrs. Rowntree and Collins, the Secretaries of the Lancasterian Schools, dated the 29th ult., purporting that the Committee had placed the Deeds of that Institution in your hands in order that I might be at liberty to inspect the same, and being unapprised whether such deposit is made in your private capacity of subscribers, or as the professional agents of the Committee, I must beg the favour of your saying by a note in answer, at what time or times it may be most convenient to you to allow me to have access to the Deeds in question, as well for inspection as to make any extracts or copies thereof, that I may think necessary, and which, as a Trustee, I have claimed at the hands of the Committee by my previous letter on that subject.

I remain, dear Sirs, your very obedient servant,  
Messrs. Hesp and Uppleby.                      GEORGE DAVIES.

These gentlemen replied without delay, and with their usual courtesy, by stating that the Deeds were given to them in their professional capacity, and announcing their willingness to afford every facility in their power. In fact, the writer, upon calling on them by appointment, was shewn the deeds in question, which had been so placed in their hands, and was favoured with the use of one of their private offices, and also with every apparatus and convenience for several hours, during

which time he availed himself of the opportunity to examine and make some extracts from them, which he considered most material, but could not, of course, in that short period, take any thing like a full and correct copy of the Trust Deed, which was engrossed on several large sheets of parchment, and as such a perfect copy was desired, the writer again addressed those gentlemen on the 16th of March upon that subject, and also asking for the inspection of the early Minute Books, and of the Accounts of the Institution from 1813. To this letter those gentlemen replied that my request should be handed to the Secretaries, to be communicated to the Committee, whose instructions they must await, and on the 21st a further answer was given, as under:—

DEAR SIR,

*Scarborough, March 21, 1840.*

We are instructed by the Committee of the Lancasterian School to furnish you with a copy of the Deed mentioned in your letter of the 16th instant, provided you will pay the cost of it; but the Committee decline under present circumstances to produce the accounts and minutes of proceedings since the year 1813 for the purposes named in your letter.

We are, dear Sir, yours most respectfully,

George Davies, Esq.

HESF AND UPPLEBY.

With respect to the early minute books of the proceedings from the year 1813, it is very important here to observe, that no doubt or demur of any kind was at this time made as to their existence, because it will appear very shortly after this date, that Mr. John Rowntree, one of the Vice-Presidents, and an active member of the Institution from its origin, professes now to know not what has become of them. To the before-recited letter of Messrs. H. and U., the writer referring to it in detail, was on the 26th of March induced to reply to it, of which the following is an extract:—"That no misapprehension may arise from any ambiguity of expression on either side, I beg leave to explain and state, that the deed in question



was originally provided and paid for out of the Trust funds, as an examination of the accounts will, I have no doubt, shew, and that I claim to have a fac-simile copy of it furnished to me upon the same principle; and as a Trustee of the Lancasterian Schools, I likewise claim the inspection of all Accounts and Minutes shewing the proceedings of the Committee and officers of the Society referred to or recognised by the Trust Deed, and forming the subject thereof; and I respectfully request, for my guidance, a distinct answer, whether I am to understand that the Committee still refuse to allow me to have a perfect copy of that Deed on the principle I have stated, or an inspection of the other documents in question."

The foregoing application was promptly acknowledged by those gentlemen on 28th of March, advising of their having handed over the same to the Secretaries, who would probably either reply to it or instruct them to do so; and in consequence, the writer soon after received the following from the Secretaries:

SIR,

*Scarborough, 1st April, 1840.*

We are directed by the Committee of the Lancasterian School to inform you that they have no further answer to give on the subject of your letter of the 26th ult. addressed to Messrs. Hesp and Uppleby.

We are, Sir, your obedient servants,

G. Davies, Esq.

W. ROWNTREE, }  
B. COLLINS, } *Secretaries.*

Immediately after this date the writer was necessarily called up to London on his private affairs; and whilst there, having deliberately turned the subject over in his mind, he again thought it right to apply to Messrs. H. and U., in which he further urged his claim as follows:—

"I wish to be distinctly understood as claiming, in my capacity of Trustee, a copy of the Trust Deed at the expense of the Trust, in the same manner as it appears the original Trust Deed was paid for, by the Treasurer's account,

in the Second Annual Report of the School in 1814; and as necessarily resulting from such my character of Trustee, access to the said accounts and proceedings; and I shall be obliged by your informing me, as the professional advisers of the Committee (which, from your letter of the 3d of March last you intimated yourselves to be), whether such copy of the Deed at the expense of the Trust, and such access to the accounts and proceedings of the said Committee, is still refused me."

The final answer received to this renewed application is subjoined:—

DEAR SIR,

*Scarborough, May 14, 1840.*

We have received your letter of the 30th ult., but the Committee of the Lancasterian School adhere to their determination not to burthen the funds of the School with the expense of making a copy of the Trust Deed for your use, or to produce the accounts and proceedings for the purpose stated in your former letter to us.

We are, dear Sir, yours respectfully,

G. DAVIES, Esq.

HESF AND UPFLEBY.

Here again be it observed, the early accounts and minute books of proceedings of the Schools are distinctly alluded to, but not a word is said of their being missing; and further, the Committee wish it to be understood that their reason for not giving a copy of the Trust Deed was not to burthen the funds with the expense; but this is clearly a mere pretext, for had this been their motive, how easily it might have been avoided by directing their Secretaries to have furnished it without any expense of consultations, or writing so many letters by the solicitors, especially when it is considered that the writer had previously in the most fair and friendly way offered to make out and exchange with them copies of the Deeds in his hands, for those in theirs, and this, it is conceived, would have been the most liberal and equitable mode of adjusting the difficulty.

But it could not, in any case, be expected that these

respectable law agents should do it without remuneration ; and upon the whole it is quite natural to presume that these gentlemen proposed adhering to the usual practice, and in consequence declined to give any opinion themselves which might possibly thwart or embarrass the previously expressed opinions or resolutions of their clients by such course, or by any overt act of theirs. The writer, however, freely admits that the whole correspondence and intercourse with these gentlemen is marked by urbanity and candour, and with due dispatch, so far as they were professionally concerned in the business ; and it might have been well if the same honourable conduct had been observed on the part of the Committee.

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We must now commence a new era in the History and Mystery of the Scarborough Institution, as the course of the future correspondence chiefly relates to the situation and connexion of *other parties* with these Schools:—and, in the first instance, the writer was induced upon his return from London to communicate the following letter to Dr. Murray, with an extract from one he had recently received from a gentleman whose name the writer was not at liberty to divulge:—

DEAR SIR,

*Scarborough, 20th May, 1840.*

Having already, upon every occasion, most frankly and unreservedly communicated to you, as the President of the Lancasterian Schools, whatever information I myself could give, or had obtained upon that subject, I now, conformably to my uniform practice, beg leave to submit the following extract of a letter which I have lately received from a gentleman, whose early and still existing connexion with that Institution may justly challenge some attention, and after a considerate perusal of which, I think you can hardly fail to perceive how it corroborates all that I have previously maintained, and intimately corresponds with the other evidence to

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be derived from the various Reports and other Documents of the period; which, notwithstanding the arts of intimidation, of sophistry, and of opposition, constantly exercised to prevent it, I am happy to say I have, with great labour and research, collected together, and are now in my possession;—and I have no doubt when the time of calm and unbiased reflection shall arrive, you will be ingenuous enough to confess that my position is a just and proper one, as well on my own account as a Trustee for others, and that you will ultimately come to the same conclusion as to the merits of the case as I have always entertained concerning it.

I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

P. Murray, Esq., M.D. etc. etc.

GEORGE DAVIES.

*Belle-Vue.*

As no notice was taken of this letter, after the expiration of a week, the writer sent a further note to the President, as follows:—

DEAR SIR,

*Scarborough, 27th May, 1840.*

A week having elapsed since I addressed you by my last of the 20th instant, in your public character as President of the Lancastrian Schools, and upon business relating to that Institution, without having received any acknowledgment even of my said letter, I am compelled, as a matter of order and propriety, to repeat the application, for the purpose of eliciting some reply to it, and I now enclose a duplicate extract of the communication therein referred to, for the more convenient information of the Committee and all others concerned. If by any mischance my first-mentioned letter of 20th instant should not have reached you, I am prepared to furnish you with a copy of that likewise, but I am sure your politeness will spare me this trouble, unless it be unavoidable.

I remain, dear Sir, yours very truly,

GEORGE DAVIES.

Peter Murray, Esq., M.D. etc. etc.

President of the Lancastrian Schools, Scarborough.

Being thus civilly reminded of the apparent omission, Dr. Murray failed not to give an immediate answer, by the following note:—

DEAR SIR,

*Belle-Vue, May 27th, 1840.*

Your favours of the 20th and of this morning's date were both received in due course; and in answer, I beg leave to refer you to my letter of December 17th last, and remain,

Dear Sir, your obedient Servant,

Geo. Davies, Esq.

P. MURRAY.

This, though so very brief, might have been considered appropriate enough, if the Doctor had not himself departed from it in so many material instances, as clearly appear by the dates of his earlier and later correspondence hereinbefore detailed, in which so much amplification may be noticed, as opposed to the present brevity will make the contrast appear the more remarkable.

Another *individual* case of a very peculiar character, and having an urgent claim for immediate consideration and redress, occurred about the same time, and which the writer was requested to make for and on behalf of a poor old man, so far reduced as to be an inmate of an almshouse, Mr. WELLBORN KEATLEY;—and in this representation it was thought more becoming to apply in the first instance to *Mr. John Rowntree*, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Institution, especially as the name of his deceased father was so prominently alluded to; accordingly the following note was addressed to the said Mr. John Rowntree on this particular subject:—

SIR,

*Scarborough, 26th May, 1840.*

A Mr. Keatley, formerly a shipowner, who thirty years ago lived at Scarborough, but at present occupies one of the almshouses near London, has informed me, by letter, that he once had an original proprietary share of the Lancasterian School here; but at this distance of time it has slipped his memory what he paid towards it, or exactly what he

received, but it was only at one time, and to the best of his knowledge it was somewhere about five pounds, and *that*, he adds, was from Mr. John Rowntree, Quaker, at Scarborough, and by "looking at his book you will know; and no doubt he took my receipt for what I received, but I know what I received was very small for what I paid. Sir, should be much obliged to you, if you think there is any more to be received, to be so kind to inform me."

I apprehend that it will be found that something more is due to this poor old man, either from your late father or you, and it might possibly arise from his removal to London, but his receipt would clear this up; and certain it is, that he has not signed the Conveyance Deeds of the School in my hands, which he ought to have done had he been paid for his share at the time. He appeals, very naturally, to his own receipt, which would doubtless be given as a voucher, and agree with the books kept at the period it took place. At any rate it is incumbent upon me to give you this intimation, and to request you will furnish me with any explanation in your power, for mutual satisfaction; observing only that Mr. K. being now in very altered circumstances, the assistance you may give will be gratefully received by him, and duly acknowledged by,

Sir, your most obedient Servant,

Mr. John Rowntree,  
Scarborough.

GEORGE DAVIES.

This letter produced a *prompt* reply (not always, however, to be obtained, as will appear in the sequel) from Mr. Rowntree, as follows:—

*Princess Street, 5th Mo. 26th, 1840.*

John Rowntree has referred to the accounts of his late father, where he found noticed a payment, in 1813, of 3*l.* 15*s.* to Wellborn Keatley. It forms part of a series of payments made to the Old Shareholders of the Lancasterian School, by the New Shareholders, according to an arrangement which had been agreed to by both parties.

What sum Mr. Keatley originally paid J. R. has no means of knowing, neither his father nor himself having any connexion with the Old Shareholders. How anything can be due to Mr. Keatley either from the late John Rowntree or himself the writer of this is utterly unable to comprehend. The late John Rowntree was Treasurer to the Lancasterian School Society from 1813 to 1827; his accounts were regularly taken to the Committees, of which G. Davies was an active member; the payments and receipts were reported there, and published at the end of each year, for the information of all the Subscribers. On the decease of John Rowntree in 1827, the late Isaac Mennell was appointed Treasurer by the Committee, and the balance in the former Treasurer's hands paid over to him. On the decease of Isaac Mennell, the writer of this was requested to act as Treasurer, which he did for a few years, the accounts continuing to be audited as usual.

To those who knew John Rowntree it will be unnecessary to say that he *paid what he received*. The writer of this knows, and is able to prove, if necessary, that he has paid for the Lancasterian School much more than he has ever received for it.

Geo. Davies, Scarborough.

But as the foregoing letter seemed rather calculated to draw off attention from the particular case of Mr. Keatley, by the introduction of much unnecessary and irrelevant matter, the writer sent the following answer to it the next day:—

*Scarborough, 27th May, 1840.*

Mr. Davies duly received Mr. Rowntree's reply to his note of yesterday, and has noted its contents. It seems that Mr. Keatley has rather over-rated than under-rated the sum he received, and so far his statement is to be accredited. Mr. Rowntree says "he has referred to the accounts of his late father, where he found noticed a payment in 1813 of 3*l.* 15*s.* to Welborn Keatley, it forms part of a series of payments made

to the old shareholders of the Lancasterian Schools by the new shareholders, according to an arrangement which had been agreed to by both parties." This appears to be the scope of what relates to Mr. Keatley's case; and Mr. Davies, well knowing the precision and exactness of the individual alluded to in all his affairs, wishes to be informed whether any specific or probable date can be assigned in 1813 for the several payments to the old shareholders, and especially to Mr. K.? also the particular grounds of such payments, and to whom, and in what proportions, the same were severally made? In short, a transcript of the late Mr. Rowntree's Book of Entries upon the occasion of these payments to Mr. Keatley and others respectively.

Mr. John Rowntree.

Having received no reply to, or even an acknowledgment of the above, the writer again addressed Mr. Rowntree as follows:—

*Scarborough, Monday, 8th June, 1840.*

Mr. Davies having waited upwards of ten days for Mr. Rowntree's reply to his last note of 27th ult., is, conformably to his uniform practice, induced to send Mr. R. a duplicate of it annexed, which is simply confined to the inquiry on the part of Mr. Keatley and himself regarding the entries found in the late Mr. Rowntree's book, relative to the payments of 3*l.* 15*s.* made to Mr. K. and others in 1813, and Mr. Davies is at a loss to account for the hesitation and reluctance to furnish such transcript of account, unless it be that Mr. R.'s exposition ought rather to be considered as his own gloss upon the matter, than the real and actual state of it. An inspection, therefore, of the late Mr. R.'s book, with Mr. Keatley's receipt for the money, seems more than ever called for, and would certainly be the most satisfactory mode of elucidating this, otherwise mysterious transaction, as well to Mr. Davies and Mr. Keatley, as all others concerned.

In connexion, however, with this inquiry, Mr. Davies



has further to observe, that in 1813 he advanced and paid over to Mr. Thomas Tindall, on account of the Society, and in the faith of, and in accordance with, the resolutions of previous public meetings held for that purpose, the sum of 18*l.*, and thereupon obtained Mr. Tindall's signature of the Deed of Conveyance to the Trustees named therein, now in Mr. D.'s possession, who on their part made a Declaration of Trust, which Mr. R. has in his hands, and therein and thereby constituted the School *public*, and no longer *private property*.

Some, however, of the original shareholders were content to continue in disburse of their money, whilst a few others accepted of a small instalment upon their shares. Among these last Mr. Keatley was one, and it does not appear that he ever received more than the 3*l.* 15*s.* from Mr. R.'s father, as part payment of his share, which, at a moderate computation, would probably cost him from 25*l.* to 35*l.* originally, and is exactly the same in amount as the simple interest of the average outlay would come to on 30*l.* for two-and-a-half years' interest, 1810, 1811, and 1812, at five per cent., or 30*s.* per annum, total 3*l.* 15*s.*,—and it can be further shewn that Mr. K.'s maritime affairs removed him from Scarborough in that same year, 1813. Now it is very remarkable that although Mr. Keatley's name appears in the list of yearly contributors to the School at 10*s.* 6*d.* in 1813, and for several years after his removal from Scarborough, yet in no one of them is he inserted as a *shareholder*; but, on the other hand, the name of Mr. Rowntree's father does for the first time appear in the list of 1813 *under that character*, and as it would seem in the lieu and stead of Mr. Keatley's which was withdrawn, and so continued from that time.

The natural inference, therefore, seems to be this, that Mr. Rowntree's father intended to have made Mr. K. a further and final payment on this account, but by reason of his removal and want of opportunity, he was deprived of the means of effecting his purpose in his lifetime, which his son and successor has now a golden opportunity of completing, if so disposed;

and under the very peculiar and difficult circumstances of the case, it is hoped the above will be considered a calm and candid view of it, subject of course to any modification or explanation of which it may yet be susceptible.

Mr. John Rowntree.

Such were the views and feelings with which the case of this humble but respectable individual was proposed to Mr. Rowntree's notice, and surely no request could be more reasonable than the inspection and examination of the books of his late father, to which, moreover, *he had himself referred*, for the purpose of clearing up every difficulty. However, after considerable hesitation and delay, Mr. Rowntree sent the following as his reply to the two last-recited letters, viz. —

“John Rowntree has been absent from Scarborough about a fortnight, he did, however, receive a note from George Davies, just before he left home, which note contained inquiries that J. R. has no means of answering, except from memory. The information asked for might probably be obtained in the Secretary's minutes. Henry Brearey was Secretary at the time referred to, but where his books are J. R. has no means of knowing. J. R. believes that he furnished in his former note all the information that could reasonably be required from him, but he takes this opportunity to correct an error which he made as to the date of the payment to W. Keatley, owing to looking to the top of the wrong page. Payments were made to thirteen old shareholders, commencing 7 mo. (July) 13th, 1813, but owing to some cause, probably absence from home, W. Keatley did not receive his 3*l*. 15*s*. until 6mo. (June) 24th, 1816. J. R. repeats that the late John Rowntree had nothing to do with the arrangements made by the old shareholders; he paid the proportions agreed upon betwixt them and the new, and reported all his payments to the Committee. Nine old shareholders received 18*l*. 15*s*. each. Four received 3*l*. 15*s*. each; among the latter is *Thomas Tindall*. Anthony Beswick received 42*l*., probably a debt due to him;

and the old shareholders who retained their shares at the reduced value of 18*l.* received 15*s.* each, except that some of them allowed that balance to go to the general purposes of the School. Thirteen new shareholders, among whom were George Davies and John Rowntree, paid 18*l.* each. The latter certainly paid the whole of his 18*l.* The shares were not bought singly, but the agreement was betwixt the old shareholders as a body, and the new. For the latter John Rowntree was Treasurer, and George Davies had ample opportunity for knowing that his accounts were correct. Why W. Keatley and three others received less than the rest does not appear from any documents in J. R.'s possession, but he has been told, and believes the fact was, that they had never paid up for their shares to the old shareholders. J. R. now wishes to decline any further correspondence with G. Davies respecting the School. He is amply provided with the means for rebutting either insinuations, or direct charges, against the integrity of his late father, but he believes the number of persons to be exceedingly small, who will require any further vindication than that which his well-known character afforded."

This extraordinary letter, *without any date*, was delivered about noon on Friday 12th June, and the same evening the following acknowledgment of it was returned, noticing the entire omission of dates, both of itself and of the letters referred to in it:—

*Scarborough, Friday Afternoon, 12th June, 1849.*

Mr. Davies has received this morning, between 11 and 12 o'clock, a note from Mr. Rowntree, *but without any date*, purporting to be a reply to *one* he had received from Mr. Davies, as he admits, about a fortnight ago, and this also written without giving *its proper date*.

Mr. Davies, not receiving any acknowledgment of this note, which was dated 27th ultimo, in due course, was induced to write again to Mr. Rowntree on the 8th instant, inclosing a duplicate copy of his former letter, with some additional matter

of grave import, which *last* note was duly delivered at Mr. R.'s house on the day of its date, although Mr. R., for reasons he can best explain, has declined specifically to refer to it. However, if any doubt exists on this point, Mr. D. can furnish a duplicate of this also, if called for.

Mr. Davies, therefore, without going into the various points stated in Mr. Rowntree's present note, for want of time to make the necessary investigation, contents himself now with the simple notice of these manifest irregularities in *the suppression of dates*, which he is the more surprised at, from observing Mr. R.'s great care to correct a former misapprehension of the exact time of payment to Mr. Keatley from 1813 to 1816, and which surely might have suggested the propriety and order of adhering to the usual practice of giving and quoting true and exact dates in an affair of this kind.

Mr. John Rowntree.

After a few days' consideration, and communication with Mr. Keatley, the writer sent this further answer to Mr. Rowntree's last letter:—

*Scarborough, 29th June, 1840.*

Mr. Davies, by his last note to Mr. Rowntree of the 12th instant, could but merely acknowledge the receipt of Mr. R.'s letter, which had just been delivered at his house on that same day, but without any date attached to it, or even any distinct reference by date to either of Mr. D.'s two letters of 27th May and 8th June instant, to which Mr. R.'s note purports to be a reply. This palpable irregularity Mr. D. considered the more necessary to be immediately noticed, because the *suppression of exact dates* (as in a late instance) frequently obstructs and mystifies the investigation of important facts; but Mr. D. charitably hopes it was not done with any such intention in the present case.

Mr. Davies will now apply himself to the investigation of Mr. Rowntree's last note; and in its commencement observes that Mr. R. evidently, though not avowedly, refers to Mr. D.'s

previous letter of 27th May, *after a fortnight's consideration*, and the succeeding one of the 8th June, and intimates that they "contained inquiries that J. R. has no means of answering except from memory." How this can possibly be the case Mr. D. is utterly unable to comprehend, seeing that all that Mr. D. required was, not the exercise of Mr. R.'s *memory*, but the inspection of, or a correct transcript from, Mr. Rowntree's father's book of entries, upon the occasion of the acknowledged payments to Mr. Keatley and others respectively. This book of entries of receipts and payments, kept with all that exactness and order which was habitual to the writer of it, is now admitted to be in Mr. R.'s possession at this present time; whereas the Secretaries' book of minutes of the Committee, kept by the late Mr. Henry Brearey, even if Mr. R. was able, or felt disposed to produce it, would not, as Mr. R. well knows, clear up the matter, because it was quite out of the Secretary's department to keep the Treasurer's accounts, and it is this *identical book* of accounts and entries of the Treasurer which is in Mr. R.'s possession, that can alone properly elucidate this otherwise obscure and mysterious subject, either to Mr. D.'s or Mr. Keatley's satisfaction, or that of others; and Mr. D. is quite willing to allow of this criterion or test of truth, so far as it accords with reason and fact, but he cannot consent to substitute for *this* any exposition, or gloss, or recollection of Mr. R.'s, nor can he admit the cogency or propriety of Mr. R.'s reference to the "Secretary's Minutes," of which book of Minutes, moreover, he is good enough to say now, *for the first time*, "where his (H. Brearey's) books are J. R. has no means of knowing." Mr. Davies has already taken some pains to come at these Minutes, and Mr. R. cannot be ignorant that he very lately applied to the Committee to have the inspection of them, but although that application was rejected, nothing was then said of their being lost or mislaid, and Mr. D. cannot help suspecting that they will yet be found in Mr. R.'s possession or power, if he will but really and sincerely set about the search for them, just as the Trust-deed of the School, after some hesitation and demur about it, was at last found to be so likewise.

Be this as it may, poor Mr. Keatley's unhappy situation is not at all altered or relieved by any such trifling adventitious circumstance. His name was arbitrarily, and without his knowledge, removed in 1813, as appears by the first Report of that year, from amongst those who were originally and properly called Shareholders, without receiving any consideration whatever for the interest or share he had held in the School from the beginning of the Institution in 1810, and some other person placed in that list in his room; and it was not until 1816 that he received from Mr. R.'s father the first and only payment he could ever obtain of 3*l.* 15*s.*, which, as Mr. Keatley very properly observes, "was an acknowledgment of his being a Shareholder, but was by no means adequate to what he paid to the School." And with regard to Mr. R.'s assertion in his last letter, without a date, that "he (Mr. R.) has been told, and believes the fact was, that Mr. Keatley (and others) had never paid up for their shares to the old Shareholders." Mr. Keatley's reply is short and to the point, viz. "I am certainly sure that I always paid my part, except one drawing, from the time I became a member, and that was the last drawing; and it was reported the School could not hold out, it was built on too large a scale."

This last drawing, or call, most probably refers to the claim of Mr. Anthony Beswick upon the School, which was outstanding and unpaid by him, as well as the other Shareholders in common, and which could only extend to 30*s.* or 35*s.* each among so many; and, upon the whole, Mr. D. must say that he never remembers to have met with any case of such fair and honest pretensions treated with more unfeeling indifference, not to say contempt, bordering almost on the appearance of a mockery of the justness of the claim, and based, moreover, upon nothing but some idle tale which Mr. R. alleges to have been told and believes, from some nameless individual. The plain common sense view of the matter is, did Mr. Keatley at any time part with his share in

the School? and if, as it seems, he never did, then surely Mr. R. will hardly pretend to say that the trifling sum of 3*l.* 15*s.* is all that was due to him.

With regard to what Mr. Rowntree's note further states, so far as concerns Mr. D. *personally*, viz., that "Geo. Davies had ample opportunities for knowing that his (Mr. R.'s father) accounts were correct." He begs leave in the most direct and unqualified manner, consistent with courtesy and truth, to deny that he ever had such opportunity afforded him; nor does he recollect that any public disclosure or printed Report, grounded upon any audit of the accounts of *these transactions*, was ever made, either to the Committee or the Subscribers, or to the supporters of the School, at any time or in any manner whatever. Mr. R.'s father's character, so well known and deservedly appreciated, was a pledge that all he did was well done; but Mr. D. must likewise insist that, notwithstanding this frank and unreserved expression of his own sentiments and views, he is neither "bringing insinuations or direct charges" against the integrity of Mr. R.'s father, but simply appealing to those just and honourable memorials which he has left behind him in his son's hands, in contradistinction to that sophistry and bad taste which would becloud his actions by refusing a fair and liberal exposure of them; and all this, be it remembered, to the manifest wrong and injury of a poor decayed and helpless old man, an inmate of an almshouse, who is going to his grave in penury and sorrow. Upon a dispassionate review of the whole of Mr. R.'s diffuse but very unsatisfactory letter, there are yet other topics which may justly require some notice in due time, but Mr. D.'s object now is, and has been, to confine himself to the original case of Mr. Keatley; and upon this head Mr. D. conceives that Mr. Rowntree is fairly called upon, in point of honour and conscience, and common justice, to account to him and Mr. Keatley, and all others, as follows, viz.—

1. By the unreserved and willing disclosure of the source from whence Mr. R. has drawn his misinformation

respecting Mr. Keatley not having kept up his payments, and upon which Mr. R. appears, hastily and groundlessly, to have formed his easy, and therefore convenient, belief, that so it really was.

2. And, *above all*, Mr. R. is requested and urged to produce the original books of his late father, or at least a correct transcript of them in those particulars here-inbefore referred to, not to gratify an idle curiosity, but for the elucidation and establishment of truth and justice,—at all events.
3. By some fair and equitable adjustment of Mr. Keatley's reasonable claims to remuneration for his share of the Schools, which now turn out to have for so many years wrongfully remained in abeyance, and which, in his peculiar situation, is severely felt as a serious loss and inconvenience; and this being complied with, he assures Mr. D. that he has no objection to put his signature to the Deed of Conveyance in his hands, and which only wants his (Mr. K.'s) name to make it complete.

Mr. John Rowntree.

Mr. Rowntree, however, still maintaining the most marked and inflexible silence, the writer was under the necessity of sending the following short note, expressive of his surprise, and again reminding him of the original case of Mr. Keatley, and that an answer was anxiously expected:—

*Monday Afternoon, 6th July.*

Mr. Davies having sent his last note to Mr. Rowntree of 29th ultimo, as well as his preceding one of the 12th same, by a confidential person, who delivered them at Mr. R.'s house immediately after their respective dates, is rather surprised that in the interval he has received no reply from Mr. R. to either of them; and a week having just elapsed since the date of the last note, Mr. Davies takes this opportunity of reminding Mr. R. of the omission, which on the part of Mr. Keatley



he may justly complain of as irregular and almost unprecedented, especially as Mr. R. must be sensible that the affair cannot be suffered to remain as it is, and an answer is therefore highly expedient and necessary on his own account, as well as Mr. Keatley's.

In addition to those letters, others were respectively addressed to Henry Brearey, Esq. of York, the son of the former Secretary, to W. D. T. Duesbery, Esq. of Beverley, to Thomas Thornton and Henry Fowler, Esqrs., and Mr. John Gillott, of Scarborough, on the subject of the Minute Books of the Committee, in consequence of Mr. Rowntree's representation now, *for the first time*, that the early ones from the year 1813, kept by Secretary H. Brearey, were missing; and from the three first-named gentlemen the writer received immediate and explicit answers, but was put to great trouble by the two last, in writing three or four letters to each of them, and with great difficulty could, even then, extract any distinct reply from either of them. Mr. Fowler at length confessing that, although now a Vice-President of the Institution, he was unable himself to refer to any of the Minute Books of the Committee; thereby indicating, beyond all reasonable doubt, a settled plan, and determination somewhere, to evade all inquiry or investigation; and thus, as the result, to conceal the true grounds of the existing controversy, by refusing to produce the Books of Entries, and giving all possible trouble, and creating delay and difficulty in the business, by causing so many letters to be written without deigning to give any reply, or only such a reply as they must have known was beside the purpose. The public, however, will easily perceive the studied object of all this to be anything but creditable to the parties principally concerned, if not indicative of conscious weakness, to say the least. But finding these last repeated applications to Mr. Rowntree were treated with so much neglect and indifference, and not being able to procure the least satisfaction from him or Mr. H. Fowler, the writer, as a last resource, addressed

himself again to Dr. Murray, the President, by the following letter:—

“Whatever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.”—*Matt.* vii. 12.

DEAR SIR,

Scarborough, 9th July, 1840.

The amiability and notoriety of your character as a distinguished philanthropist and scholar, inclines me to believe that you cannot but approve of the motto I have selected, as the most appropriate I could have chosen for the purpose of the present letter, which is simply to lay before you the distressful case of one of the respectable but now impoverished Founders of the Lancasterian School Institution with which you stand so intimately connected as President, and in reference to which Institution I have had occasion for the last seven or eight months very frequently to write to you relative to the *general* conduct and proceedings of its Officers and Managing Committee; and which I trust I may yet have health and opportunity to bring again under your notice, and that of the public, in a more authorised and complete form than I have hitherto been able to accomplish.

The subject of this letter, therefore, is purposely confined to the individual case of a Mr. Wellborn Keatley, who is now living in one of the almshouses near London, in consequence of the decay of his circumstances, which formerly, at Scarborough, were prosperous, as a shipmaster and owner; and when thus situated in the year 1810, he, with a few other shipowners, purchased the ground, and erected the aforesaid schoolhouse, at an expense which according to documents still existing in my hands, amounted to the sum of £1013 8 8 But on account of which the Proprietors and

Shareholders obtained by Donations and Subscriptions in 1810-11-12 towards the liquidation of the above sum . . . . .

353 16 5

Leaving a balance then due and out standing }  
on this account . . . . .

£659 12 3

Mr. Keatley, it appears, went into the Transport Service in 1813, just before the conclusive arrangement was entered into by the other Proprietors or Shareholders for the surrender of their remaining interest in this concern to the public, at a great reduction from its original cost to them; and from the best information I can collect, each of these original Proprietors were chargeable with and actually disbursed about 35*l.*, which was subsequently reduced to about 30*l.*, and, at the very lowest calculation, fluctuated between that amount and 25*l.*, but certainly never less. In fine, the bulk of the original Shareholders did in 1813 consent to a compromise of their individual shares at the fixed price of 18*l.*, agreed and resolved upon at a Public Meeting, each sacrificing any difference or loss that might arise thereby for the general good of the Institution, and in pursuance thereof, did then immediately after convey over the property to nine Trustees (of which number I am the first-named in the Deed), with distinct covenants, nevertheless, that the same should be made secure to the public for ever as a school, upon the plan and system of Joseph Lancaster, and also upon other covenants therein declared of and concerning the same. This first deed you are aware was for some time asserted to be in my hands by Mr. William Rowntree, one of the Secretaries, but was afterwards discovered, as I had anticipated it would be, in the possession of his uncle, Mr. John Rowntree; and you are also aware that a copy of it has since been refused me by the Committee, although I am one of the three Trustees now living.

Mr. Keatley, following his employ at sea, and unavoidably absent from Scarborough from 1813 to 1816—was not one of the original contracting parties to the beforementioned arrangement, but when he came back in 1816 he applied to Mr. Rowntree's father, who was Treasurer to the Institution, for his share or claim in respect of the School. Now it appears, that, by the three first Annual Reports of the School in 1813, 14 and 15, in my possession, Mr. Keatley's name was *not inserted in the list as a Shareholder*, but some other person

placed in his stead, which extraordinary abstraction or omission of his name *under that character*, evidently demonstrates that it was *at least intended* he should have been paid for such his share, *at the same agreed rate of 18l. for his principal as the other withdrawing Shareholders of that period were paid*, and also the same amount of *interest* as they received, and which upon the average outlay or cost of 30l. each, would for 2½ years amount to 3l. 15s. over and above the 18l. so agreed to be paid by divers Resolutions of Public Meetings held for that purpose. It further appears that several of them did receive this 3l. 15s. for interest, with that 18l. of principal, and others were content to receive 15s. for only half-a year's interest by way of acknowledgment of their right to such interest then and in all future time, whilst some returned or gave up the amount for the benefit of the general funds of the Institution.

Mr. Keatley, however, being entirely ignorant of these money transactions, upon his return to Scarborough in 1816 received from Mr. Rowntree, the Treasurer, the 3l. 15s., same as others were paid for interest, but has never received a single penny more at any time than this one payment, on account either of principal or interest; and now finding that his name was arbitrarily and without his knowledge withdrawn from the list of Shareholders ever since the year 1813, and that his present very reduced circumstances compel him to seek for some compensation for this, to him, very severe loss, he has authorized the undersigned to interfere on his behalf, for the purpose of obtaining a just and equitable settlement thereof from you, Sir, and the Officers and Committee of the Institution under your patronage, promising on his part, to sign the Deed of Conveyance of his interest to the Trustees, as others have done before him, and without which the Deed itself is so far incomplete.

These are the simple facts of this very hard case, which in order to avoid giving any more trouble than I could help, and bearing in mind your reluctance of late to entertain this

School question upon *general principles*, I have, in the first instance, addressed myself to Mr. John Rowntree, the son of the former Treasurer, and the correspondence I have ready to be submitted to your calm and considerate judgment, and that of an unbiased public, if he should be unwilling to produce the same for general inspection, satisfied as I am, that the claim, so reasonable and just in itself, cannot be resisted either by you or any impartial person that properly considers the case of this poor but respectable old man, and that he should not be deprived of his property or right without an adequate consideration (for the trifling sum of 3*l.* 15*s.*, as he very justly observes, was only an acknowledgment of it), in utter disregard of all reason or right, and in defiance of the Divine injunction with which this letter begins and ends:—"Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them."

I am, dear Sir, yours very faithfully,

Peter Murray, Esq. M.D. etc.

GEORGE DAVIES.

To this letter the President was pleased to return the answer following:—

DEAR SIR,

*Belle Vue, Friday, July 10th.*

I have this morning been favoured with your letter, and really must be excused from giving any opinion on a subject in which I have no concern whatever, as I am neither a proprietor nor original founder of the Lancasterian Schools. Accept my thanks for the kindness of your expressions to me personally, and with my best wishes for your health and happiness,

I remain, dear Sir, yours truly,

G. Davies, Esq.

P. MURRAY.

The Doctor had, unconsciously no doubt, referred to my letter in very general terms, and without quoting its date, and this, with its astounding contents, obliged the writer, after due consideration, to return an acknowledgment of it, thus:—

DEAR SIR, *Scarborough, Tuesday night, 14th July, 1840.*

I duly received your note of Friday, the 10th instant, referring to a letter of mine, I presume of the day preceding. The simple fact is this. A poor man, an inmate of an almshouse, complains of injustice done him, and shews that something is due to him from the Lancasterian School Society at Scarborough, which has long remained unpaid; the Institution being all the time in the possession and use of the property, part of the consideration for his share of which constitutes the debt. To a poor man a small sum is large. The President of the Institution replies, "It is a subject in which I have no concern whatever."

Surely such a reply could not have been intended by *Dr. Murray!* I make no other comment.

I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

Peter Murray, Esq., M.D. etc.

GEORGE DAVIES.

President of the Lancasterian Schools, Scarborough.

Hearing nothing from Dr. Murray at this time, and having soon after received a most pressing and important letter from Mr. Keatley, the writer again took an early opportunity of laying the case before him for consideration and inquiry, in the mutual discharge of their several responsible duties, by the following note, to which, however, as well as the former, the writer has received no reply or acknowledgment of any sort:

DEAR SIR, *Scarborough, Monday, 10th August, 1840.*

An imperative sense of duty compels me to address you at this time, in consequence of a most urgent and moving letter which I received last week from poor old Mr. Keatley, begging of me still to present, by every means in my power, his distressful case to your notice for public inquiry, as I have already done by my two last letters of the 9th and 14th ult. Your observation in reply to the former—that "it is a subject in which I have no concern whatever,"—is certainly not consistent with your position as President of the Lancasterian School Society, nor in accordance with your general or private

character for benevolence and justice, and I am therefore obliged to suppose that it has been dictated by the same secret influence which would deprive this poor man, not only of his equitable and just right, but would take occasion also to traduce and insult him by the assertion of injurious imputations, which, however, they will find some difficulty in verifying by any positive proofs. To all such party proceedings I should be very sorry to see Dr. Murray continue to ally himself, as I am quite sure they cannot add to his present peace, or abiding respectability and usefulness. Pardon this honest expression of my sober sentiments, but feeling much sympathy for the unhappy condition of my aged, afflicted, and injured correspondent, I could not, in conscience, conceal them from you.

I remain, dear Sir, yours very faithfully,

Peter Murray, Esq. M.D. etc.

GEORGE DAVIES.

President of the Scarborough Lancasterian Schools.

To this peculiarly severe case of Mr. Keatley, and the very remarkable coincidence of conduct both of Dr. Murray and of Mr. John Rowntree in respect of it, the writer will, however, more fully and freely advert in the further prosecution of this Narrative History, etc. merely observing here, that at this time he necessarily determined upon the drawing up and circulating a Letter of *Remonstrance*, which should have especial reference to the original documents which form the groundwork of the present controversy, including a full *categorical answer* to the several points of the Committee's *extraordinary Resolution* dated 7th January last, and he takes the opportunity in this stage of the Historic Narrative, again to refer to those documents, and especially to the last of them, as affording strong and incontrovertible evidence of the groundless nature of all the *assertions* which that Resolution *assumes as facts*, known and admitted on all sides. These Letters, Resolution and Protest have been reprinted in the commencement of this History, pp. 3—14, and are purposely and conspicuously placed there for convenient reference, and as forming the pith and substance of the whole dispute.

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### CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS AND FACTS.

THE candid reader, and especially the interested local subscriber to the Scarborough Lancastrian Schools, who may have taken the pains to travel through this Narrative History, as detailed in the preceding correspondence, cannot fail to perceive that, after laying aside much empty declamation, and many misplaced theories, the real question at issue is not one to be decided by the *mere assertion or assumption* of either party, but by *positive and well-attested facts*. That the party complained against, and who are in the possession of all or any of such facts or documents, ought, in all fairness to lay them open, freely and unreservedly to the public, and especially to the supporters of, and subscribers to the Schools, who are essentially interested in the matter; and that any reluctance or refusal by either party, to disclose such facts and documents in their original simplicity and genuineness, justly forfeits all claim to public confidence and regard.

In this unenviable situation it may be seen the Lancastrian School Committee, or rather the acting Members of it, have undoubtedly placed themselves in various ways; as—

1. By their refusal to produce any books of the Society to be open to inspection and examination of the writer, though himself a Trustee of the Society, and having duties to discharge as such, and there being only one other Trustee in the place.
2. By Mr. Rowntree's refusal to give any copy or extracts from, or even to produce his late father's book of Cash Accounts as Treasurer, in order to shew the appropriation of the School funds when the change took place in the year 1813, both in the constitution and membership of the Society, and which might clear up every difficulty, either general or particular, personal or public.



3. By a similar refusal of the Committee to allow the writer to take a copy of the Trust-deed or any other deeds or documents, except through their own *professional agents*, and at *his private and personal expense*, when it is notorious that as a Trustee it is incident to that situation and its duties, which can only be accurately ascertained from the Deed which prescribes them, to have such copy *free of cost*; and moreover he was promised such copy when he signed the Deed.
4. By various vexatious and harassing annoyances thrown in the way of a fair and open scrutiny and examination, and avoiding to give prompt and direct answers to the inquiries and observations which have necessarily arisen in the course of these long protracted discussions, and finally by refusing to give *any* answers whatever, in which course they appear to hope most effectually to stop all further inquiry.

In all these and other respects, instead of shewing any confident reliance on the goodness of their cause or the validity of their bold assumptions, they rather betray a totally different character of inefficiency, vacillation, and utter abandonment of every sound principle of moral excellence, unfitting them for the proper management of the School transactions upon the just and honourable grounds of its formation and original establishment, and calculated to be entirely subversive of all good faith, and mutual confidence between man and man.

In this sweeping censure, however, the writer would by no means include *all* the respectable names which stand on the published list of the Committee; several of them he is aware, and has previously admitted, have been placed there rather as honorary members, than as being expected or intended to take any *active* part in the proceedings of a *few* resident members; and in this respect certainly great allowances should be made for the amiable and kind-hearted President, Dr. Murray, whose

benevolent tendencies are so well known and justly appreciated; but however much he is, and ought to be respected, on these accounts, and however unwilling the writer would be to enter the lists with him on questions of Philosophy or Natural History, Geology or Geometry, Physics or Metaphysics, yet he trusts he is not assuming too much in laying claim to at least an equal competency of understanding with him on a simple question of reason or of fact, of *meum* and *tuum*, or of what may be considered morally right or wrong, after some extended experience of the busy world, and a pretty general acquaintance with men and things. Indeed, the worthy President has been pleased, in one of his letters, April 10, 1840, p. 19, to pay the writer a compliment on "his excellent understanding," yet in a former letter of 19th November preceding, p. 37, he writes thus—"I cannot help thinking you have not taken your *usual clear view* of this business, and that there has been some *cross-reading*, if we may so say." This mode of expression seems liable to some doubtful construction, and although the writer willingly acquits Dr. Murray of any sinister intention, yet, coming from such a quarter, the expressions might be perverted in a way more or less injurious to the subject of them, because it is not every one who is so favoured, as the writer is, with a good natural constitution, and energy of mind and purpose to bear up calmly under such multiplied wrongs and incessant vexations as he has met with, without suffering much more than he has done, both mentally and bodily. Nevertheless, the writer freely exonerates Dr. Murray, in this or any other instance, wherein he may have keenly felt himself aggrieved, and been deprived of the Doctor's friendly sympathy—casually suspended rather, not forfeited on either side—and which is yet therefore capable of revival, and even of improvement, when the present obstructing causes shall be removed out of the way. But sorrowful it is to observe that the admission of the writer's "confessed opulence," in the Doctor's polite phraseology, or poor Mr. Keatley's reduced circumstances, which cannot be disputed, are, to say the least, regarded with the same indifference,

and their equally just claims alike treated as unworthy of notice by him, and by those whose influence over the President's opinions and actions are all powerful and supreme.

In respect then to the case of Mr. Wellborn Keatley, just referred to, it will be seen that both the President Dr. Murray, and the Vice-President Mr. John Rowntree, are now quite agreed in declining to answer any inquiries by letter, or to go into the subject further, although Mr. Rowntree, when first applied to, had shewn himself forward to do so, as a reference to the late correspondence fully evinces. In fact, the conduct of this same Mr. John Rowntree, with that of his partner and nephew, Mr. William Rowntree the Secretary, and assisted or countenanced more or less by a *few* others of the Society of Friends, and those under their influence, and at their suggestion, may justly claim a more extended notice in this History, more especially as the former is referred to so often by name in the President's letters, and otherwise as such an undoubted authority in every matter relative to these Lancasterian Schools. It is upon this public ground that the writer proposes to be somewhat more explicit in his remarks, not however indulging in any invidious or personal feeling of ill-will against him or any other individual, much less for the purpose of reflecting generally upon that large and influential and highly-respected section of the body politic to which they belong, whose consistent principles are so well known and approved as are the SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, but for the sole purpose of developing the *want* of that consistency and of those principles which has distinguished a small part of the Society here, who having pinned their faith upon Mr. Rowntree's confident representations and assertions, give reason to believe that they are disposed rather to be led by him, than to listen to a plain, straightforward statement of facts and reasonings.

The writer's knowledge of these Lancasterian Schools goes back even to their first original formation in 1810, and he was probably an earlier contributor to them than either Mr. Rowntree

tree or his father, by a donation of 2*l.* 2*s.* in that same year. The avowed connexion of the present Mr. John Rowntree with the Institution seems to have been in 1813, when, by the first published Report of that year, his name appears as a half-guinea subscriber, and so continued for several successive years. At this time the writer was an annual subscriber of 1*l.* 1*s.*, and then of 1*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*, besides giving a donation towards the expense of dividing the Girls' School from the Boys', which was soon found to be desirable and necessary.

In this early state of the School transactions, it was well known to the writer and many of the old members and subscribers, that the present Mr. J. R. was the constant assistant of and adviser with his late father in all his affairs, financial, commercial, or otherwise, and that they both took an active part, with the writer and others, in the settling, re-modelling, and success of the Schools, upon the publicly avowed principles which had been arranged and resolved upon at several general meetings of the inhabitants and subscribers, held for that purpose. The deceased Mr. John Rowntree was generally well known as a man of inflexible integrity, and unblemished character, but still, like other men, fallible, and occasionally intractable and erroneous in his views. He however disdained all covert acts of sophistry or delusion. He was above all petty shifts and contrivances to gain popular applause by the suppression of what he believed to be the truth. In short, he was a man of principle from the best motives and for the best ends, and on these accounts he was generally, but not invariably, invited to take the chair at public or private meetings of the Society. His weight and influence, therefore, among the circle of his own particular friends, and generally throughout the town, very naturally pointed him out as a fit and proper person to be Treasurer of the Institution; in which office, however, the writer, for a very short period, and much against his wish, was associated with him as Joint-Treasurer; and the reason why, he believes, he was so chosen and solicited to serve, was an intended compliment to him, as a then new

settler in the town, and taking so very active a share in canvassing for subscriptions and donations to the Institution; and in this capacity he might rather be said to be the walking or working Treasurer, and his co-adjutor, Mr. R., the sole accountant or receiving Treasurer; and, from sundry MSS. and printed papers in the writer's hands, it appears, he was further employed in drawing up several addresses recommending the Institution to general support and patronage. Previously to this, however, several important public meetings were held at the Town Hall and other places, and a Special Committee appointed to report on the formation of Rules and Resolutions, with the most feasible, and practicable, and best considered modes of carrying them into effect, at which the Messrs. Rowntrees father and son, constantly assisted, and the proceedings were duly entered in the Book of Minutes kept at the time; which Rules and Resolutions, Accounts, and other Documents, either in MS. or in print, it is believed, still remain in the custody or power of the present Mr. John Rowntree, as the son and successor of his late father, and are exactly those "*original documents*" upon the true meaning and construction of which the Institution was completely re-modelled and established in 1813; and upon the faith of which the writer, as well as many others, agreed to advance so much money as was found to be absolutely necessary to enable the Committee to pay off all just claims or incumbrances then existing. One of the printed circular particulars of such a public meeting at the Town Hall the writer had an opportunity of seeing, at the office of Messrs. Hesp and Uppleby, in March last; and other subsequent meeting or meetings were held, which would, of course, appear reported in the Minute Book kept for that purpose, and also those in print, which would be equally deposited in Mr. Rowntree's hands, most probably with the original Lease and Release of the ground from Mr. George Nesfield in 1810, upon the death of Mr. Henry Brearey, the first Secretary to the Institution. The said Lease and Release the writer saw at Messrs. H. and U.'s offices, as also the Declaration of

Trust, executed by the writer and eight other Trustees (only two besides himself being now living), were carefully put up in a brown paper envelope, and most accurately indorsed in the late Mr. Rowntree's own handwriting, as follows:—

“ Lancasterian School-Conveyance of Land from  
George Nesfield, and Declaration of Trusts.”

And yet, with such a full and exact superscription in the well-known hand of the late Mr. R., the present Mr. R. and his nephew and partner, Mr. William R., would at first have had it believed that the Trust Deed was in the writer's hands, and *not in theirs*.

As to giving or allowing permission to take copies or extracts of these or other documentary papers, which has been, and still is, so pertinaciously resisted and refused by Mr. Rowntree, and his party of “Friends”—it is *now of late* asserted by Mr. R., that as to all the early Minute Books of the Society's proceedings which were kept by the late Mr. Henry Brearey, the first Secretary, “he has no means of knowing where they are” (see Letter without date, p. 75); and as the earliest of these Minute Books would doubtless register, confirm and ratify those Resolutions of Public Meetings before stated, as well as other matters of considerable moment, it is highly probable they would be deposited with Mr. John Rowntree, or his family, for safe custody, and will yet be found to exist among the other documents, which have been already discovered among the late Mr. Rowntree's papers. Indeed it is utterly incredible that documents of such importance can have been lost or mislaid by men of such habits of regularity and order. But really if such miserable pretexts are to be set up in order to preclude all fair inquiry, and to leave the writer, and others similarly situated and interested, without any remedy against such virtual suppression of facts and documents, except only such as Mr. Rowntree and his particular friends find convenient to disclose, the writer and others so situated might well be considered as in a hopeless

condition, entirely at their mercy, and obliged to submit to any terms that he and his friends may choose to impose; but if it can truly be made appear that, by the production of those documents, a valid and incontestable case would be furnished of the justice of their claims, then upon every principle of honour and equity and fair dealing, such means should be made accessible, without further evasion, or delay, or needless expense to either party, but more especially to the complaining party. It is, however, a happy feature in this business, that the unfair conduct of the resisting party, has (contrary to their expectations) turned out rather to the furtherance of the truth, as it has put the writer, though at great personal labour and research, to a more careful and rigid examination of his books and papers, even from the very beginning of the periods alluded to in 1812, 13 and 14; and the results of such investigation have only tended the more effectually to confirm his first impressions and recollections, inasmuch as they have furnished him with the proceedings and resolutions of several Public Meetings which clearly shew the spirit of the original understanding which existed between all parties, and how much they differ from that which has been of late broached and insisted on by the Resolution of the Committee of the 7th of January last. Particular attention is directed to the following extracts from documents in the writer's possession, and which extend so far back as 1810, or earlier; even before a Schoolhouse was erected; viz.

"Sensible of the advantages to be derived from Mr. Lancaster's system of education, we, whose names are subscribed, have associated for the purpose of accelerating its introduction into the town of Scarborough. We have unanimously resolved and agreed:—That we will attempt the establishment of a School for the reception of the children of the poor at the reduced rate of one penny per week," and then, after specifying other objects of their considerate benevolence, they proceed to state, "that should there not, within a reasonable time from the opening of our School, be established within the town of

Scarborough, a Lancasterian School, for the benefit of what are commonly termed the middling and better class of inhabitants,—it is our opinion that the public voice will call for ours to be thrown open to all classes. We solicit no Annual Subscriptions; when once established, we expect our School will support itself.”

Among the names of the Subscribers to this interesting Document, the writer is happy to recognise that of Mr. Keatley, with three or four of the chief of the Friends’ Society and other well-disposed persons, chiefly shipowners, but the name of *Rowntree* does not occur in this list.

The purchase of the ground for the erection of the School-house, appears by the Deeds in Mr. Rowntree’s hands, to have been undertaken and carried into effect in the year 1810, and the names of those who purchased the same will hereafter be given in the sequel of this narrative—twenty-two in number—and Mr. Keatley being among them. It therefore, from its beginning, was undertaken as a School for the *poor*—and as the probable means of introducing a permanent establishment of a Lancasterian School, upon the self-supporting system of the First Inventor, “for the benefit of what are commonly termed the middling and better class of inhabitants”—which in 1810 was carried into effect; and a Committee of the School having met on August 10th, 1811, to take into consideration the best mode of promoting the benefit of the Institution,—the following Resolutions were unanimously passed:—

- 1st. That the said Committee having exerted their utmost abilities to discharge the duties of their important office in the erection of a commodious building, the appointment of a master, and the adoption of the most approved method of instruction, are anxious to fulfil all their engagements with the Subscribers, and to give unequivocal proofs to the public of the disinterested motives by which they are actuated.
- 2d. That in order more effectually to obtain a general concurrence, and to produce a desirable harmony, a



copy of the following circular Letter be sent to every Subscriber of Half-a-guinea and upwards. "*The Lancasterian Committee request the favour of your Company at the School Room on Tuesday the 20th inst. at two o'clock in the afternoon, to examine the Accounts,*" etc.

Soon afterwards another and more explicit announcement of the real state of the School was issued by the following circular:—

"LANCASTERIAN SCHOOL, SCARBOROUGH,

10th December, 1811.

"The Committee of the Lancasterian Institution, having now provided a master fully qualified to conduct the School upon a regular plan, flatter themselves that much benefit will result from the Institution, and they beg leave to present the following statement of their accounts, trusting that the public will be induced, from a view of the deficiency of the fund, to contribute to the liquidation of the debt, and the support of the Institution, either by Donations or Annual Subscriptions—which will be thankfully received by any of the Committee.

"When the debt shall be liquidated, the building and appurtenances will be given up to the town at large, and regularly vested in the hands of Trustees to be chosen by the Subscribers for that purpose.

DR.

"LANCASTERIAN SCHOOL.

In purchasing the ground, building and fitting-up the School, lessons, slates, Bibles, Testaments, salaries of master and mistress, etc. etc.	£.	s.	d.
	1013	8	8

CR.

By subscription of the inhabitants	241	17	7
By allowances of scholars	81	5	10
By donations from strangers	30	13	0
Balance of bills unpaid	659	12	3
	£1013	8	8"

Thus it is plainly shewn that the twenty-two original proprietors and proprietors of the School engaged in it with the most *disinterested* motives, and made themselves answerable for the payment of the balance due thereon, which responsibility, and want of adequate support, being found irksome and inconvenient to many of them, obliged them, in the following year, to come to the following Resolution; viz.—

“ At a Meeting of the Proprietors of the Lancastrian School held 14th November, 1812—

“ *Resolved*,—That as the income of the School has this year fallen short of its expenditure (independent of any interest for money advanced), it be relinquished at Christmas next, as the proprietors will not be accountable for any deficiency after that time.”—And the writer received with this circular Resolution, a request that he would attend a meeting at the Town Hall on the Wednesday next to take the above Resolution into consideration, “ You having been this day appointed one of a Committee for that purpose.

(By order) HENRY BREAREY.”

“ *November 14th, 1812.*”

A meeting no doubt took place in consequence of the above, but the writer is unable to say with what results, or whether he attended such meeting. However, at an adjourned meeting, which was held on the 8th of December following, it appears that certain Proprietors of the School had made some proposals to relinquish the same to the public for the sum of 450*l.*, in lieu of the stated balance of their account of 659*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*

This adjourned meeting is rendered remarkable on account of its being the first in which the name of Mr. John Rowntree, deceased, is brought prominently before the public by any recorded act in the writer's possession, viz., “ At an adjourned meeting of the inhabitants of Scarborough, holden the 8th day of December, 1812, at the Town Hall, to take into consideration a proposal made by the Proprietors of the Lancas-

terian Schoolhouse to relinquish the same unto the public for the sum of 450*l.* John Rowntree, in the Chair:—

“ *Resolved*,—1*st.* That the proposal made by the Proprietors of the Lancasterian School to relinquish the Schoolhouse and its appurtenances to the public for the sum of 450*l.* be sanctioned by this meeting, if an adequate subscription can be obtained.

“ 2*d.* That, in order to raise a fund to effect the purchase of the Lancasterian Schoolhouse and its appurtenances, a subscription be solicited amongst the inhabitants at large.

“ 3*d.* That in case it should be deemed impracticable, on account of existing circumstances, to obtain an adequate sum by general subscription, the inhabitants be invited to adopt a plan of holding proprietary shares, of five, ten, or twenty pounds per share.”

The above Resolutions were, however, soon found to be inoperative and ineffectual, as appears by the Report of a subsequent meeting, holden on the 19th of February, 1813, as follows:—

“ At a General Meeting of the Subscribers of the Lancasterian School, holden at the Trinity House, the 19th February, 1813, Mr. John Rowntree in the Chair, the following Report of the Committee appointed at the last General Meeting was brought in and read, viz.—

“ Your Committee, in pursuance of their appointment, met on the 9th December last, and resolved that 500 handbills of the Resolutions adopted at the General Meeting should be forthwith printed and distributed, in order to make known the proceedings of such meeting, which were accordingly done and circulated throughout the town and neighbourhood. Your Committee also circulated 300 copies of an address to the inhabitants previous to soliciting subscriptions from house to house, that no person might plead ignorance of the Regulations on which the Institution was henceforward to be conducted.

"Your Committee, in soliciting subscriptions, met with innumerable difficulties, which they have great pleasure and satisfaction in stating are nearly surmounted.

"Your Committee, finding it impracticable to obtain the sum of 450*l.* in donations, or to dispose of shares agreeable to the Resolutions of the last General Meeting, Resolved,—That, subject to the approbation of a General Meeting, as many of the original Proprietors who would agree, should be invited to continue their shares at 18*l.* each, along with others; allowing the holders of such shares the privileges of an annual subscriber of 1*l.* 1*s.* or interest, at their option; and they congratulate the subscribers at large that they have been enabled upon these terms to dispose of twenty-five eighteen pound shares, which will be sufficient to purchase the building, etc., making up the sum of 450*l.*

"Your Committee have obtained annual subscriptions to the amount of 70*l.*, or thereabouts, with evident prospects of a considerable increase, and also some donations.

"Your Committee now strongly recommend the immediate formation of a School, agreeable to the Resolutions of the last General Meeting; and that the present School-room, with its appurtenances, be forthwith purchased from the original Proprietors, and that the premises be conveyed by them to such Trustees as shall be chosen by the next General Meeting.

"Resolved,—That the above Report be confirmed by this Meeting, and immediately carried into execution.

"That nine members (not shareholders) be the Trustees, to whom this property shall be conveyed, to be renewable when the number is reduced to three.

"That Mr. John Rowntree be the Treasurer.

"That Mr. Henry Brearey be the Secretary.

"And a Committee of Management, consisting of fourteen members (naming them), under whose direction the Report and Proceedings of the meeting is to be published.

JOHN ROWNTREE, *Chairman.*"

"*February 24th, 1813.*"

These various proceedings and Resolutions of Public Meetings naturally give rise to many important reflections, as in the—

*First* place they plainly demonstrate that the raising of the funds required in order to re-establish the School by subscriptions for *proprietary shares* was found to be *impracticable*, and had wholly failed: but seeing a disposition was manifested by many of the original proprietors to continue the School, though at a partial loss on their respective shares, it was found expedient to invite them to continue their interests in the School at a reduced rate of 18*l.* each, which most of them accepted, under the circumstances of the case, and under such guarantee of their acknowledged interests being publicly made and secured.

*Second*, That as some of the original proprietary shareholders would not consent to continue their interests in the School on the above terms, but resolved to be paid in money to the extent of the 18*l.* at least (and with interest as will hereafter appear), the General Meeting approved and encouraged "other persons," who had not been shareholders, to advance 18*l.* each, as the readiest and best means to provide for the claims of such dissentients.

*Third*, That in both the foregoing cases, the holders of such vested interests, by such advances or loans, be entitled to the privilege of an annual subscriber of 1*l.* 1*s.*, or *interest at their option*.

*Fourth*, That on these terms, the School-room, with its appurtenances, be forthwith purchased from the original proprietors or shareholders, and conveyed by them to nine members (*not shareholders*) as the Trustees, who should be chosen at the next General Meeting.

Now, after such plain and positive proof that *interest* was payable on the respective sums advanced, *at the option of the lender*, how can it with any shadow of truth be said, as is most confidently asserted in the Resolution of the Committee of the 7th of January last, that "*No expectation of money interest*"

*was at that time held out as an inducement to the parties to take shares?"* or in other words to lend their money on the express terms of the original Resolution, to be paid *interest at their option*, and when, from the very first, the writer acted upon this Resolution, and received his interest of 18*s.* per annum, as others did, or might have done, and which receipt of interest is duly entered in his books accordingly. Furthermore, by these Resolutions it appears that "nine members, *not shareholders*, be the Trustees to whom this property shall be conveyed, to be chosen at the next General Meeting," etc.—and conformably thereto, at the said "General Meeting of the Subscribers of the Scarborough Lancastrian School, holden at the School-room June 4th, 1813,

"PETER MARSHALL, in the Chair.

"*Resolved*, That the following be appointed Trustees, to whom the premises shall be immediately conveyed" (in alphabetical order thus): William Ainsworth (*d*), Robert Clemesha (*d*), George Davies, Isaac Mennell (*d*), John Pennock (*d*), Joshua Priestman (*d*), Samuel Stavely (*d*), James Tindall (Knaption), John Watkinson (*d*),—nine in all." It appears, however, that between the date of the foregoing Resolution and the execution of the Trust-deed itself, which bears date the 14th of July in the same year, 1813, the name of John Pennock was withdrawn, and that of Thomas Hill of London substituted for it, who it is believed is still living there. Those with (*d*) affixed are long since dead, so that only three at most remain. It is further remarkable that all the Trustees named in this Deed had advanced, or agreed to advance, each their quota of 18*l.* to enable the Committee of the School to perfect their arrangements with the dissentient or retiring shareholders; and yet by the aforesaid Resolution it is distinctly proved, that none of them were considered "Shareholders" at this time, it being expressly provided and declared that they were "*not Shareholders*;" but in fact were merely such as had contributed their aid, in a way of temporary loan, to enable the Committee

to purchase and arrange the concerns of the School upon the basis agreed upon of paying interest for the sums of money so lent and advanced, *at the option of the lender*, until such reasonable time as the Committee could find the means of reducing or extinguishing the principal, and with it the interest likewise. In fact, the term "Shareholder," it is contended, as well regarding those who had originally and properly borne that character, but had recently agreed to the reduction of their claim, and to transfer their legal rights to Trustees named by the subscribers to the Schools, as of those who had only advanced certain sums of money to pay off the retiring "shareholders," was lost or misapplied immediately upon the transfer and conveyance of the property in the School to the Trustees for the benefit of the public, and leaving the use and control of the same to the subscribers, or to their Committee for the time being, but to be appropriated solely to the furtherance of education upon the system or plan of Joseph Lancaster, and for no other use or purpose whatever. Therefore, until the transfer by the said conveyance to the Trustees and the declaration of the Trusts were made and executed by the respective parties, although *pro tempore* they stand in the First School Report of the 4th of June, 1813, with an SH attached to each name, yet immediately upon, and after the execution of the said Deeds, dated respectively the 12th, 13th, and 14th of July, 1813, they are not so known or distinguished, but instead of it their names appear in the italic character, with an N.B. at the foot of the list, indicating that "*the names in italics are those who have advanced money for the purchase of the Schoolhouse!*" and this, be it observed, not on their own account or in shares, but entirely for the use and accommodation of the General<sup>d</sup> Subscribers, whose representatives the Committee must undoubtedly be considered. The second and third years, 1814 and 1815, agree precisely in this announcement, and by the Treasurer's statement of the School transactions for the three first years, the balance of each year appears to be as follows:—

1st Report, 4th June 1813.—Balance of	£.	s.	d.
cash from subscriptions, etc. . . .	74	5	1
2d Report, 4th June 1814.—Balance of			
cash (after paying off extra bills for			
law charges, deeds, etc. 37 <i>l.</i> 17 <i>s.</i> 9 <i>d.</i> )	82	14	6
3d Report, 4th June 1815.—Balance this			
year . . . . .	73	18	5

These several Reports have been discovered, after diligent search, among the documents which remain in the writer's possession, and, with others, are accessible to any person who may wish to refer to them, upon due application. The exact balances of each year have been given here for the purpose of correcting an involuntary mistake which he had made at page 7, in estimating them at an average of 60*l.* or 70*l.*, whereas it will be seen that they considerably exceed that amount; but as it was not his wish to exaggerate, he had rather err on the safe side.

It is rather remarkable that not until the third and last-named Report of 1815, is a memorandum for the first time introduced at the foot of the Treasurer's account, not as being founded on any declared Resolution of the Subscribers or of the Committee, but merely the Treasurer's own remark or opinion, to the effect that this year's balance of 73*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.* was chargeable with the Master's and Mistress's salaries, and other expenses, "and with the payment of interest of 234*l.* to those *Shareholders*" (still adhering to the misnomer) "who having paid their subscriptions, will receive the interest of their shares." Now the terms share, and shareholders, have already been sufficiently repudiated and refuted, as inapplicable to this case, and the memorandum of the Treasurer at the foot of his account is of no validity in itself, or capable of being made so by an individual act or opinion of his, in violation of the previously existing Resolutions, solemnly and deliberately entered into, and publicly avouched, and upon the faith of which the writer with others paid the money so urgently required to be



advanced. Yet, to shew the utter worthlessness of such shadow of a shade for argument, and to avoid all possible ambiguity, the writer took the trouble to call on the Messrs. Rowntree (father and son); and from the first, got some statement of the particulars of the subscriptions which he had received under his own hand, and from the last obtained, with some difficulty, a list of the names of the thirteen persons who had been darkly alluded to as having paid up the sum of 234*l.* at the rate of 18*l.* each, and this same list is now in the writer's possession, and in the proper handwriting of the *present Mr. John Rowntree*, in which also the writer's name is specifically included, along with twelve others, *who will receive interest*, as noted at the foot of the Treasurer's account. Surely this is another irrefragable proof that the Resolution of the Committee of 7th January last, is altogether unfounded, which states that "no expectation of money interest was held out as an inducement to the parties," etc.

The writer however frankly confesses that he was much disappointed and discouraged by the apparent reluctance of the Messrs. Rowntree to give him even this brief explanation, but his own uniform principle and practice of open and upright conduct towards the original shareholders, by allowing them to claim and receive a fair interest on their disburse of cash in the purchase of the Ground, and the building of the School in 1810, had already secured that point in their favour, to those who accepted of it,—and that many of them did so is apparent from the tenor of Mr. Rowntree's last letter, p. 75 which is only intelligible on this ground,—and in consistency with the books kept by his late father, which shew that some of them did actually receive from him the entire interest due, or 3*l.* 15*s.*, and others a less amount at their option; yet it was never in any case supposed or pretended that "*no money interest*" was due and payable both to the *original* proprietary Shareholders, and with yet more certainty and propriety to those who had so *recently* advanced the necessary loans of money to pay off the retiring shareholders; on the contrary,

the payment of interest to the original Shareholders, was a pledge, if any were needed, of the same payment to the subsequent lenders of money advanced on the faith of public Resolutions, and guaranteed thereby. Even "*The Cliff Bridge Company of Shareholders*," who hold some tangible Share Certificates for their money, and with which private speculation, however improperly, the present Lancasterian School question has been thought by some to be nearly allied, would no doubt consider it very unjust, if not a mockery, to be told that, because they do not choose, or cannot take Bridge-tickets, they are therefore to be shut out from all benefit of interest or dividends on that concern. Not less so then are the lenders of money to the School Committee entitled to the usual reasonable interest on their respective advances who hold no such Certificates,—whether those in the original outlay of money reduced by agreement to 18*l.*, or those who actually advanced as much in cash, in order to re-establish the Schools on the proposed footing of 1813. And as the elder Mr. Rowntree was the Chairman at both of the Public Meetings—which had finally settled the point of *Interest*—and Mr. R. the younger was privy to, and had acknowledged it by a written memorandum, it seems quite out of character *now* to deny the same, even should the latter be deemed any authority for such a procedure.

It was, however, the discovery—the painful and unexpected discovery—of this early attempt to mislead, that made the writer form the resolution of withdrawing his subscription, and of course the use of any more tickets for the admission of children to the Schools, unless he could get an *explicit recognition* of the original claims on the Schools set out in the Annual Reports; and to this end he has found among his MS. papers of that period, one which he had prepared, and still preserves, as a draft report of the Committee to the Annual Meeting, drawn up with great circumspection and care, and which, although it touched very briefly and generally on this delicate subject, he conceived would suit the exigency of the

case, and would have satisfied his mind at that time, yet still without alarming or offending the most timid or desponding subscriber. After referring to the pecuniary concerns of the Schools, it contained the following sentence near its close:—

“ Its resources hitherto have been barely sufficient to meet the necessary expenditure, without providing in any measure for the gradual discharge of the advances which have been made to purchase the buildings, and as it solely depends for support on the voluntary subscriptions of the humane of all parties, without any public or congregational collections, it is hoped it will not be suffered to droop and languish for the want of necessary funds for its comfortable establishment and increasing utility, and that no illiberal policy or underhand dealings will be effectual to cool the ardour or slacken the movements of her friends in her support.”

This the writer had intended to submit to the Committee, and did actually shew it to two of the earliest friends of the School (Dr. Thompson and Mr. Jonathan Barber), who quite approved of it, but finding from his habitual intercourse with the Messrs. Rowntree, and others of the Committee under their influence, that any such disclosure or free expression of sentiment would be rejected as inadmissible in the Report, he never did *formally* bring it forward at any Committee Meeting, and in consequence, those two friends with himself withdrew their connexion with and support of the Society at the same time and on the same account. On the part of the Messrs. Rowntree, it was urged by them and their friends, that any express mention of an existing debt or incumbrance to the amount of 450*l.*, or any considerable portion of it, would entirely discourage the subscribers already contributing from continuing their subscriptions, and prevent new ones from joining in support of the infant cause. Such reasoning appeared to the writer and others exceedingly fallacious, if not absurd, on the two following grounds:—1st, Because the subscribers generally were already quite aware of the true situation of the School at its recent formation, and therefore could not be surprised or

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alarmed about it. And 2dly and chiefly, Because the concealment of such true situation might naturally be expected to operate unfavourably to its interests with the occasional visitants and strangers frequenting Scarborough in the summer season, who, upon looking over the Annual Reports, and finding therein no acknowledged debt or incumbrance on the Schools, but, on the contrary, a considerable cash balance in the Treasurer's hands from year to year, would of course understand that the Institution stood in no need of help from them, and would in consequence reserve the disposal of their bounty for other Institutions more in want of it.

As the writer, however, found the Messrs. Rowntree unwilling to listen to the propriety of the course he had pointed out, and not wishing himself to hinder their operations and plans, or to disturb the harmony of the Society at that time, whose welfare he had constantly and unremittingly endeavoured to promote, he at first discontinued his subscription, and with it the sending of any more children to the Schools, and silently withdrew himself from all active interference in its concerns. But he soon found that neither was this measure (so reluctantly forced upon him) at all agreeable or expected by the Messrs. Rowntree and those connected with them, and that as the writer had, as Trustee, received possession of the Conveyance Deeds of the School, which it is contended it was his right and duty to hold and maintain; this circumstance was regarded by them and their friends with a considerable degree of jealousy, and an attempt was, at all events, to be made to obtain them from him, and to place them in the hands of Mr. Rowntree, the Treasurer, who having already the Trust Deed, and all the other deeds appertaining to the School, would, with these, have the whole entirely in his hands. Accordingly, it was intimated to him in no doubtful terms, that he must give them up, and Mr. H. Brearey, the Secretary, was directed to write the following letter to him on the occasion :—

SIR,

*Scarborough, May 22, 1815.*

In pursuance of a Resolution of the Committee for managing the affairs of the Lancasterian School, passed the 9th of May instant, I am to inform you, that the Title Deeds and other documents belonging to this Institution, are to be deposited in the hands of the Treasurer for the time being.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Mr. Davies.

HENRY BREAREY, *Secretary.*

It is almost needless to say, that, as a Trustee, he could not legally be justified in relinquishing these Deeds but to a *Co-Trustee*, which the Treasurer, Mr. Rowntree, *was not*, and upon the discharge of the different covenants which the Trust Deed had created, which last deed was already in Mr. R.'s hands; and of course the writer held the Conveyance Deeds then, as he does now, not merely for his own security, but for the general benefit of the public, and especially of the subscribers and others interested, upon the ground and principles declared in the Trust Deed itself, and which he and others had subscribed. Accordingly Mr. Brearey, as a professional man, judging he was right, made no further application for them. Nevertheless, perceiving a growing dissatisfaction on the part of the Messrs. Rowntree, and a few of their Society of Friends, and in order to remove all ambiguity on the subject, he addressed the following note to Mr. Rowntree, the Treasurer:—

SIR,

*Tuesday Morning, 19 March, 1816.*

As I perceive that my having possession of the Conveyance of the School has given great offence, I have only to observe that upon being repaid the eighteen pounds which I have advanced, I am ready to deliver up the same immediately.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Mr. John Rowntree.

GEORGE DAVIES.

To this note no answer was ever received; but it is doubtful whether if the writer's individual claim had been paid, he could properly have parted with the Conveyance Deeds, unless

to a Co-Trustee, to be decided upon among themselves, or at all events without some adequate indemnity; and had he surrendered these Deeds without a due settlement of all these questions of doubt and difficulty, he would have been shut out from the possibility of reclaiming either principal or interest due to himself, and materially prejudiced the rights of others, whose interests as a Trustee, he was bound to protect equally with his own. The object and design therefore of the party in getting these Deeds into their own power are too plain and self-evident to require even a moment's consideration; and finding themselves foiled in the first attempt, they never afterwards made a second of this kind. But at this present time, as he is only one of the two Trustees remaining in Scarborough, (the third being a non-resident, and on that account supposed to be incapable of sustaining or fulfilling his duties under the Trust Deed), and as the other resident Trustee, Mr. James Tindall, is a gentleman much younger than he, and enjoying good health, it is all but certain that he will be the survivor of the two, and it therefore seems prudent and expedient for the public security, that the conditions of the Trust Deed should be speedily complied with, in the choice and appointment of other Trustees, agreeable to the Trust Deed, that when the number shall be reduced to three, other Trustees shall be appointed to complete the original number of nine; and on the writer's part, it would be his desire and wish that it should take place; but then it becomes a previous and most important question how the existing liabilities under the Trust Deed are to be disposed of or provided for, and secured to all such as originally advanced their money to the Schools in 1813, until now; and it is quite plain this cannot be effected, after twenty-five years or more of irregularity and misrule, without a resolute effort to abandon the perverse, evasive, and therefore disreputable policy hitherto observed, and by a vigorous and simultaneous movement, evince a real inclination and desire to act frankly, honestly and fairly, by all who have advanced the necessary funds at interest, in the confidence of being

repaid; and thus manfully meeting and surmounting every difficulty in a candid, honourable, and straightforward course, which could hardly fail to meet with a reciprocal feeling, and lead to a result satisfactory to all parties, and eminently conducive to the interests of the Institution.

Although the several letters to and from Mr. John Rowntree, in regard to the individual case of Mr. W. Keatley, which appear in the former part of this History, might seem to render much further explanation unnecessary, yet, as the writer feels himself bound in honour and duty, after what has passed, to place the whole transaction, according to his ability, in the clearest possible light, as well to shew the real grounds of this poor man's claim, as to lay open the entire History of these Schools to the plainest understanding, he must now go into further particulars, by stating that the first conveyance of the ground on which these Schools were built, to the original purchasers and proprietors in 1810, was from Mr. George Nesfield, for the consideration of 21*l*. This first Conveyance by Lease and Release is or was in Mr. Rowntree's custody. The names of such original proprietors of the ground, and the School-buildings shortly after erected thereon, are, of course, given in the Deeds, and consist of *twenty-two* persons, mostly shipowners (as per list hereafter, p. 114), and among these Mr. Keatley's name will be found enumerated, with twenty-one others; and thus far his legal interest, and just claim to compensation, must be admitted to be well founded. But in the new arrangement and re-modelling of the Schools in 1813, which then took place, it would seem that a debt was owing to Mr. A. Beswick, of 42*l*., which Mr. R.'s letter (without date) with great probability supposes to have been for joiner's work done at the School. Now, in order to pay off this debt, it was deemed advisable to engage three other persons to advance 18*l*. each,—thus making a total of 54*l*.; so that by paying Mr. Beswick's bill of 42*l*., there would remain a surplus of 12*l*. to meet any contingencies. These various money transactions were settled and conducted by Mr. Rowntree, the Treasurer,

as would doubtless appear by the books he so regularly kept, and now in his son's hands; and very likely also by the Minute Books of the Society's proceedings, which were kept by the then Secretary, Mr. Henry Brearey, and in a manner, so far as the writer had an opportunity of observing for three or four years, with strict regularity and good order. But Mr. R. seems not inclined to exhibit the former; and with respect to the Secretary's Minute Books, he knows not where they are; they have all at once disappeared, and it does not seem convenient or agreeable to make any effort to search for or recover them; although in the previous instance of the missing Trust Deed, it was found, after some delay, as the writer predicted it would be, notwithstanding that Mr. William Rowntree had at first broadly insinuated that the writer had it, and withheld the knowledge of it from the Committee; as, indeed, it might with equal reason be said of these early Minutes of the Society, the production of which at this critical period is so important, as Mr. R. and others are well aware; and, to say the truth, it is the opinion of some, which in the writer's sincere and sober judgment he cannot but believe, that these Minute Books yet remain in Mr. R.'s possession or power, and will yet be found and produced at some future time. However, the Account Book of his late father, the Treasurer, Mr. R. has plainly confessed that he has in his possession, to which he very confidently refers in his aforesaid letters; and it is this identical book which the public and the writer are, it is conceived, entitled to claim and expect the production of, containing the accounts of monies received and paid, on the transfer of the property in the Schools at the period alluded to, and comprehending all the money transactions between the original proprietors and the new contributors (distinct from those of the annual subscriptions and current disbursements in the Reports of the Schools), and thereby shewing the true and exact state of the affair from its origin, and of all persons concerned therein; as well for the general satisfaction of the public, as for the purpose of



elucidating or clearing up any doubt or difficulty, real or supposed, and especially in this particular case of Mr. W. Keatley's connexion with the School, and which, it is believed, would confirm the equity of his claim for compensation on the most indisputable grounds.

The writer has stated above, at p. 112, that the original Conveyance was made in 1810 by Mr. George Nesfield to *twenty-two* persons only, and he invites Mr. Rowntree to produce the Deeds in his hands, or to disprove, if he can, that their names are any other than those which follow; viz.—

1 William Tindall	12 Robert Knox
2 Thomas Tindall (R)	13 Wellborn Keatley (*)
3 Robert Tindall	14 Christopher Hill
4 John Taylor	15 Christopher Harrison (R)
5 William Smith	16 Daniel Gray (R)
6 John Scott (R)	17 Bartholomew Fowler (R)
7 John Richardson (R)	18 Frederick Cornwall
8 Peter Pennythorne (R)	19 William Boldero (R)
9 William Newham	20 James Bradley (R)
10 John Moorsom	21 Anthony Beswick
11 Christopher Leng (R)	22 Peter Marshall.

Ten of these original proprietors, against whose names (R) is affixed, decided upon *retiring* altogether from the School; and accordingly *some* of them received, and others, by the public Resolution, *ought* to have received, the agreed sum, or reduced value of 18*l.* each, and interest previously due, but which it is believed was not impartially observed towards *all*. With respect to Mr. Keatley, who is distinguished by (\*), he not being at Scarborough when the foregoing arrangement took place in 1813, nor for three years after, viz. 1816, was not at all consulted, or made acquainted with these transactions, and has never been called upon to execute the last conveyance to the Trustees in 1813, although his name necessarily stands in the body of the Deed as a contracting party, and a blank left for his signature, with a pencil mark against

it. It further appears that of the twenty-two persons comprised in the above list, eleven of them assented to the terms which were sanctioned by the Resolutions of previous public meetings, and consented to have their names stand at the reduced sum of 18*l.* each, rather than let the Institution go to ruin, but of course having the additional security and public pledge of reimbursement to that extent, together with the interest which had been promised and paid to several of them, at the rate of 3*l.* 15*s.* for two and a half years then due, whilst others were content with less, or 15*s.* for half-year's interest on their original average advance, and with a promise of continued interest on the 18*l.* so settled and agreed, *i. e.* 18*s.* per annum, or if they preferred having two half-guinea tickets for admitting two children into the School, *at their option*. The following list contains the names of the twenty-two original proprietors, with those of three *additional* ones, making up the twenty-five who (with the exception of Mr. Keatley) signed the Conveyance Deeds to the nine Trustees hereafter enumerated, and dated the 12th and 13th July, 1813; viz.—

- |                         |                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 William Tindall       | 16 Christopher Harrison (R)  |
| 2 Thomas Tindall (R)    | 17 Francis Harrison (N)      |
| 3 Robert Tindall        | 18 Daniel Gray (R)           |
| 4 John Taylor           | 19 Bartholomew Fowler (R)    |
| 5 William Smith         | 20 Frederic Cornwall         |
| 6 G. D. Smith (N)       | 21 William Boldero (R)       |
| 7 John Scott (R)        | 22 Anthony Beswick           |
| 8 Peter Pennythorne (R) | 23 Peter Marshall            |
| 9 William Newham        | 24 Christopher Leng (R)—(By  |
| 10 John Richardson (R)  | his Executors, W. Newham     |
| 11 George Nesfield (N)  | and his wife R. Newham.)     |
| 12 John Moorsom         | 25 James Bradley (R)—(By his |
| 13 Robert Knox          | Assignees, J. Moorsom and    |
| 14 Wellborn Keatley (*) | A. Beswick.)                 |
| 15 Christopher Hill     |                              |

11—Eleven of the above having no distinctive mark are those of the Original Proprietors who consented to a reduced value, and to remain.

10—Ten others with (N) affixed retired from the School altogether.

3—Three New Contributors of 18*l*. each, marked (N).

1—Mr. W. Keatley, who has not signed the Deeds because not settled with, marked (\*).

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25 Total.

But the Deed of Covenant and Declaration of Trust bears date the day after the preceding, viz. 14th of July 1813, and recognises the nine Trustees first-named, No. 1 to 9, all new contributors (*not shareholders*) appointed for the purposes therein expressed, in the following order; viz.—

1 George Davies	14 Simon Lord (N)
2 Robert Clemesha (D)	15 Peter Marshall
3 Isaac Mennell (D)	16 John Moorsom
4 William Ainsworth (D)	17 George Nesfield (N)
5 Samuel Staveley (D)	18 William Newham
6 John Watkinson (D)	19 John Rowntree (N)
7 James Tindall	20 William Smith
8 Thomas Hill (London)	21 Matthew Smith (N)
9 Joshua Priestman (D)	22 Joseph Taylor (N)
10 Anthony Beswick	23 John Taylor
11 Frederick Cornwall	24 William Tindall
12 Christopher Hill	25 Robert Tindall, jun.
13 Robert Knox	

9—Nine of those first enumerated, No. 1 to 9, were the Trustees of the School, six of them marked (D) are since dead.

11—Eleven names without mark are original Proprietors who agreed to accept a reduced value.

5—Five marked (N) are those of supposed new Contributors (including Mr. John Rowntree), taking the place of former Proprietors.

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25 Total.

From this last list, however, in which Mr. Rowntree's name for the first time appears, Mr. Wellborn Keatley's name has been excluded, and some other person has *obtrusively* taken his place, and who this person is, or was, is the mystery which is yet to be cleared up, and may, perhaps, more distinctly appear by comparing the two following tables, placed in juxtaposition with each other, as regards the difference of twelve names in the Deeds of the 12th and 13th July, 1813, and those inserted in the *Trust Deed* of the following day, viz. the 14th July, namely:—

*Names of Twelve Persons inserted in the Deeds of Conveyance of 12th and 13th July, but not inserted in the Trust Deed of 14th July, viz.—*

G. D. Smith  
John Scott  
John Richardson  
Peter Pennythorne  
Christopher Harrison  
Francis Harrison •  
Daniel Gray  
Bartholomew Fowler  
William Boldero  
Christopher Leng  
James Bradley  
Wellborn Keatley.

*Names of Twelve Persons enumerated in the Trust Deed of 14th July, 1813, to replace others.—Per contra.*

Robert Clemesha  
Isaac Mennell  
William Ainsworth  
Samuel Stavely  
John Watkinson  
James Tindall  
Thomas Hill  
Joshua Priestman  
Simeon Lord  
Matthew Smith  
Joseph Taylor  
John Rowntree.

By these several lists it is clearly seen that although Mr. Keatley was absent from Scarborough from 1813 to 1816, and was no party to any Deeds by which the Conveyance of his interest was necessary, and in fact had never seen them, yet, by the foregoing arrangement, his name has been irregularly, and therefore illegally and wrongfully abstracted from the List of the Proprietors at this time, as well by the Deeds last referred to, as by the Annual Reports of the School from 1813,

which could not, it is believed, have been done without the privity and permission at least of the Messrs. Rowntree, and therefore the most reasonable and favourable construction which can be put on the transaction is, that it was intended he should be paid by some one upon his return to Scarborough, after the same scale as had been agreed and settled at previous public meetings, or 18*l.*, with the same share of interest due to him as had been allowed and paid to others; for instance, to Mr. Thomas Tindall 3*l.* 15*s.*—but on his return to Scarborough in 1816, it appears he received from Mr. Rowntree the interest merely, being 3*l.* 15*s.*, and has never since received anything more, either for principal or interest, which verily seems the height of injustice, since by omitting his name with an SH. as a Shareholder in the first year's Report, it attempts to exclude him from all interest in the concern, without the least consideration, and allows another to occupy his place, without a shadow of right or title thereto; and perhaps nothing can more demonstrably prove the perfect knowledge the Messrs. Rowntree had of this case, than the omission of Mr. Keatley's name as an SH. in the first, second, and third yearly Reports, and yet most inconsistently placing it in the List of Annual Subscribers at 10*s.* 6*d.* for those very years when he was absent, and never authorized or paid any money-subscription whatever; and the late attempt on the part of Mr. John Rowntree to injure the character of this poor Mr. Keatley is, under the peculiar circumstances of this very hard case, anything but creditable, and must, it is conceived, recoil upon himself with many aggravations, seeing that he cannot but be aware of his own delicate position, which nothing can alleviate but the production of those books and accounts which were kept by his late father, the Treasurer, as the record of them, and which he has admitted to be in his hands at this time, and whatever may be the effect of their investigation, the writer is quite disposed to place implicit reliance on whatever is found in the handwriting of the late Treasurer, and nothing but this can so properly clear up this extraordinary transaction

as regards Mr. Keatley, either to his satisfaction or that of others.

These details, though somewhat prolix, have been considered highly necessary in order to shew the *animus* of the ruling party in the conduct of this important undertaking from first to last; and the writer is yet in possession of various other strong facts, which sufficiently prove, that no sooner did the new arrangement of the School come into operation, than a systematic scheme was commenced by the same party to induce even some of the original proprietors, who had been promised to be paid 18*l.* and interest by various acts and resolutions of public meetings, to take much less; so that 15*l.*, 12*l.*, and even 10*l.* have, it is believed, been substituted for the 18*l.* originally awarded. Indeed it seems difficult to limit such course of proceeding where the inclination to continue it is so paramount, but a thorough conviction of its injustice and impolicy. This system of mystification and concealment has been in operation, and fairly tried for upwards of a quarter of a century, and has proved to the Institution, so excellent in itself, and notwithstanding many noble donations and charitable bequests to it, an almost total failure in character, and very much so in usefulness. Such a system may indeed answer a temporary purpose, for bolstering up a supposed feasible, but really false scheme of *doing evil that good may come*, but in the long run it will infallibly be found true, that "Honesty is the best policy;" and that nothing but what is strictly honest can be *permanently* pleasant, prosperous, or useful.

The writer has thus stated at considerable length, and in much detail, the substance, he believes, of the material facts which have any bearing on this long-vexed and long-concealed case of local injustice, not on his own personal account merely, but because he has had ample opportunity of knowing that there are many silent sufferers in humble life, and Mr. Keatley in particular, who look up to him for procuring them some practical redress of their grievances, and reparation of their losses and wrongs, in consequence of the unjustifiable conduct

and proceedings of the Committee, or certain members of it, and who further feel it to be an additional aggravation of their case to be taunted with advice to sell their interest in "*the public market*," forsooth! when it is well known that both principal and interest being so long unpaid, and not even so much as acknowledged to be payable, they can have no marketable commodity to dispose of, nor can they, under such circumstances, legally or equitably assign over such interest to another, but can only look for and expect a settlement of both from the Committee themselves.

How lamentable a contrast does such behaviour of the Scarborough Committee present, to the open and honourable conduct and proceedings of other excellent Institutions of this very kind, established about the same time, and most liberally encouraged and promoted by some of the richest and most respectable of the Society of Friends, in and near London!—the Gurneys, the Barclays, the Allens and Sandersons, the Frys and Jansons, etc., whose example, along with many other similar ones of the Society of Friends, it would be an honour to follow.

*Extract from the Report of the Managers of the Spitalfields  
Lancasterian School, 27th of 11th Mo. (November), 1812.*

"The Managers, with no small sacrifice of time and attention, have brought the Institution to that state in which its extensive utility must be universally acknowledged. The good they anticipated has been realized; but on account of the difficulties already stated, they have been obliged to borrow the sum of 800*l*.; for the liquidation of this debt they appeal to the liberality of the public. One vigorous effort to obtain even small sums by those who feel the importance of the undertaking, would discharge all claims on account of the present building, and then enable the Managers to concert measures for providing for the education of 500 girls, according to their original plan."

*Extract from the Report of the Committee of Managers of the  
Tottenham Lancastrian School, 8th March, 1813.*

“ In the address issued previously to the opening of the School, it was announced that a barn had been taken near the end of White Hart Lane, which it was the intention of the Managers to convert into a School-room. This was done under the direction and inspection of the Managers. It was at first intended to have completed it by a specific contract; but so much more was found essential to be done in the progress of the work than was at first considered to be requisite by the Committee, that they consequently far exceeded their first calculation, both in regard to the quantity of work done, and consequently in the expense attending it.”—And accordingly the statement of Receipts and Expenditure of the Institution shews a balance against the Institution of 35*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.*

These two apposite instances, occurring exactly at the same period with the establishment of the Scarborough Institution, and of a similar character, may suffice to prove that in these and other places, no studied plan of concealment, much less of injustice, was practised, or even so much as thought of, by these wealthy and influential portions of the Friends' Society, who stood prominently forward to promote the success of their Schools. No sinister mode of raising money by improper courses, or with any other than direct, and open, and honourable means: not a word about *shares* or *shareholders* is to be found in their transactions.

The writer has likewise abstained as much as possible from all acrimonious reflections or personalities, yet in every case where the *truth must be told*, he has not shunned to declare it, nor will he ever be ashamed or afraid of divulging it, in accordance with the avowed sentiment with which he entered on this discussion, and which he has endeavoured faithfully, however feebly, to fulfil, in order that he may not justly be charged with any concealment on his part, yet he trusts it will be found that he has neither mis-stated nor exaggerated any-



thing, which it has certainly been his anxious desire and constant effort to avoid. He has likewise been scrupulously careful not to impute motives as to the conduct of others which they might not deserve, and which they can best explain, leaving to such persons or parties full opportunity of doing so.

Upon the whole it clearly appears, from undeniable documents, that a sum of 450*l.* was indispensably required in order to found and re-establish these Scarborough Lancasterian Schools in the year 1813, which amount was raised in manner and form already recited and described in the several Resolutions of divers Public Meetings which were held at that time for the purpose, and upon the faith of which the different contributors of that sum lent and advanced their money, and vesting the entire property and management of the Schools in the general body of Subscribers or their Committee for the time being, under a Deed or Declaration of Trust entered into for that purpose.

It further appears that no part of such advances or loans, nor any interest thereon, for these many years past, has been paid, but has never till of late been openly and formally contested, or denied to be really due and owing. That the Annual Reports of the Institution, containing no recognition of these original claims on the School funds, there has, in fact, been no appeal made to the public for aid on this account by the Committee of Managers; but, on the contrary, a studied concealment, or manifest perversion of facts, has been going on for more than a quarter of a century, which it has been the object of the writer to lay open to the public in this History, and which, he conceives, can be accounted for upon no other supposable reason or ground than to keep the Institution in a state of rickety pupillage or dependency on a few persons, chiefly of the Society of Friends, at Scarborough, with whom the entire or principal patronage, control and management of the Institution is in fact *virtually* vested, and some of whom may find it very convenient and useful, in various ways, that so it should ever continue. But really, if such an *inglorious*

system is still to be pursued and persisted in, it were better it should at once be publicly known and properly understood by persons of all parties. For if it is still to be kept up as a sort of Quaker preserve for the spread of their influence, and the prosecution of any selfish ends and purposes, *then*, with the enjoyment of these, let them have the merit of supporting it at their own cost, and with it, as necessarily connected, the opprobrium also of getting into their own hands the use and benefit of the Schoolhouse and its appurtenances, without any consideration whatever paid for it to those who originally and most handsomely provided the funds necessarily required for its honourable and comfortable re-establishment.

The writer, in conclusion, affirms with sincerity and confidence, that he has from the beginning taken upon himself the exposure of this truly pitiable and unpleasant subject at great personal inconvenience of time and trouble, not so much on his account, as because he has a perfect persuasion of the still harder cases of many who have suffered, and are still suffering severely, in consequence of this discreditable business; but there is no one, perhaps, whose case calls more loudly for commiseration and redress than that of Mr. Keatley, upon whom an attempted scheme has been put in practice to deprive him *altogether* of that interest in the Schools which he undoubtedly possesses on the face of the early existing Deeds, and which has never been abandoned or disposed of on his part; and not only so, but this respectable old man's character has been most unjustifiably assailed by Mr. John Rowntree's letter against him, inserted in p. 76, and which he declines either to explain or retract. Indeed, so much does the writer feel the injustice of such proceeding, that he would willingly postpone any advantage, personally to himself, rather than Mr. Keatley should be kept any longer in a state of uncertainty and privation of his rights; and he confidently appeals to the really benevolent and humane in his behalf, at his advanced age, the inmate of an almshouse, and a reduced shipowner, though now and ever maintaining a fair and irre-

proachable character, so far as the writer believes or understands from all who have long known him.

Furthermore, the writer very truly asserts, that he has been reluctantly forced into this controversy, very much against his will, and has been alone guided in it by an imperative sense of duty, which, in every instance, has directed his course throughout a long and chequered life, and has never suffered him to compromise the immutable principles of truth and justice, which being unchangeable in their nature, are likewise of binding and imperative obligation, and are equally unaffected by the remote date of the transactions or the comparative small amount in question; *small to him individually, but very considerable to a poor man*, like Mr. Keatley, and perhaps many others, to whom even a fractional portion of their just claim would be most acceptable at this time.

But the general principle which the question involves, precludes the writer from taking into consideration any waver of the full amount claimed, so long as it is continued to be evaded or denied by his opponents, and which can alone be satisfactorily settled by the candid and unreserved production of all the "original documents," books, and accounts which are in their possession, and which the writer has repeatedly and forcibly called upon them again and again to produce, in their own justification, and for the public satisfaction, on all the foregoing important points, but hitherto without effect. Finally, in no case can he be satisfied in his own conscience, in ceasing to call for the production of these documents, or to press most earnestly the claims of others, such as Mr. Keatley, whose great age and very altered circumstances in life, render even the little so justly due to them, an object of increased value and importance;—and it is with such feelings the writer begs leave respectfully to submit the whole affair to the calm consideration and mature judgment of an impartial and enlightened public.

15th October, 1840.

GEORGE DAVIES.

SEQUEL TO THE HISTORY  
AND  
GUIDE TO THE MYSTERY  
OF THE  
SCARBOROUGH LANCASTERIAN SCHOOLS.

IN A SERIES OF  
LETTERS TO A FRIEND.

*By George Harvey*

*By the Author of "The History and Mystery" of that Institution.*

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PART THE FIRST.

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"NOTHING EXTENUATE, NOR SET DOWN AUGHT IN MALICE."

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LONDON:  
CHARLES KNIGHT & CO. 22, LUDGATE STREET.  
SCARBOROUGH: W. S. THEAKSTONE.

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1842.



## PREFACE.

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THE present series of Letters on the subject of the Scarborough Lancasterian Schools—thirteen in number—have been addressed to a private friend, at whose request they are now published. They form only the *first part* of what may properly be called the SEQUEL to the “HISTORY,”—in which the name of Dr. Murray, the President, is *officially*, and but sparingly introduced; being quite aware of his wish to decline as much as possible, any *personal* publicity or responsibility in the case; and in which opinion and determination, *althouyh of late origin*, the Author thinks there is manifest a very sound discretion.


The *second part* of this continued series of Letters is now in course of preparation for the press, and will chiefly be devoted to the clearing up much of the “MYSTERY” which has long—too long—hung over the proceedings of certain prominent *official personages*, and their connexions, who have hitherto held, or appear to have held, a deleterious and disastrous influence over the President’s mind; and in elucidating this subject it is not improbable that his *public conduct* may necessarily come under review, even more fully and

PRECE.

prominently than in any former instance. But still, with that regard to truth, delicacy, forbearance, and gentlemanly feeling, which have characterised the Author's *official correspondence* with him upon this, as on all other occasions; and which he will ever study to maintain, under very forbidding and untoward circumstances.

Considering therefore Dr. Murray's high *official position* in these School affairs (without dwelling uselessly on his many estimable *private* virtues, which no one doubts), and moreover the Author considering himself really obliged to him for many valuable hints, and certain unexpected discoveries and assistances, which were made known to him in the President's last official Letter, of 25th of January 1841; together with the significant silence and studied avoidance of all further interference in the business, either public or private, which has constantly marked his conduct ever since,—all which must necessarily and of course be duly acknowledged in the forthcoming *second part* of these Letters.

Scarborough,  
August 15th, 1842.



MR. DAVIES'S FIRST LETTER  
ON THE  
LANCASTERIAN SCHOOLS AT SCARBOROUGH.

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LETTER I.

---

"Value the friendship of one who stands by you in the storm;  
Swarms of insects will surround you in the sunshine."

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DEAR SIR,

You are pleased to call upon me to explain to you what has been the course and effect of my publication of the existing differences with the Managers of the Lancasterian Schools here, after you had carefully read over, and considered the "HISTORY AND MYSTERY" of that Institution, composed and published more than a year ago, and had gathered from it so much information as to satisfy your own mind on the subject. I therefore cannot refuse complying with the reasonable request of one whose friendship I have long experienced, and whose wishes are with me, tantamount to commands, although such compliance may necessarily involve much additional trouble, and lead me into details which, otherwise, I would certainly have much rather wished to avoid.

It is peculiarly painful to a generously confiding and sensitive mind, to meet with undeserved ill-treatment, instead of grateful requital, from those whose former professions and conduct would seem to have promised very different results, and to be compelled to abandon long-cherished friendships, because the real grounds of difference consist not in matters of private or party *opinions*, or secular and fleeting *interests* merely, but on those grand cardinal PRINCIPLES of morality and sincerity, of truth and justice,—which combine the qualities, and enter into the very essence of civilized



society, and which it is believed cannot be impugned, tampered with, or denied, without damaging and deranging the harmony and general welfare of the entire community, so far at least as its influence extends and operates. Coarse and vulgar minds indeed are rarely very susceptible of refined pleasures, and consequently are little regardful of the feelings and fortunes of others, when any prospect of advancement, or supposed personal advantage offers itself to their ambitious hopes or self-seeking gratifications. But with regard to *Dr. Murray*, the President of the Institution in question, and the writer's late professional friend, and also of the *Rev. G. B. Kidd*, the Independent Minister here, at whose meeting-house, during his pastorate, and that of his venerated predecessor the late *Rev. Samuel Bottomley*, he had been in the constant habit of attending for the space of thirty years (from the year 1810, when he first came to reside at Scarborough, until the present School controversy forbade, as a necessary consequence, his longer continuance)—notwithstanding their avowed predilections and open partizanship, he nevertheless had reason to expect, and will still continue to indulge the charitable hope of better things from them. But they also well know, or might have learned, that he is neither to be diverted nor deterred from pursuing that course of honourable and fair dealing which his conscience approves, and which his position in society dictates, by the inferior consideration of the sacrifice of their private friendship (which he never courted, or wished to possess or retain without mutual desert at either side), or by paying much regard to his own personal ease or gratification, though at present, as they know, far advanced in years: and least of all swayed by mercenary motives, which by some doubtful "*Friends*" here (whom I will hereafter designate by their original appellation, *Quakers*, in order to distinguish them from the large and very respectable portion of "*FRIENDS*" properly so called) have been, not very charitably, attached to him, for the purpose, as he cannot but believe, to inflame prejudice, and to influence him to submit to their views and

wishes of secret, silent subserviency to them, and their associates, in opposition to the irresistible evidence of existing *documents* and plainly demonstrated *facts*, contained and set forth in the "HISTORY" aforesaid, and which it is obviously their wish, if possible, to bury in oblivion; but which it is his bounden duty, in justice to himself and in behalf of others, to keep alive and perpetuate, until satisfaction be obtained for him and them, in consequence of such perverse and reprehensible conduct on their parts.

The same parties, *first* named, are also quite aware that from the outset, and during the whole course of this School Controversy, as detailed at large in "THE HISTORY AND MYSTERY" already published, it has been the writer's principal and indeed invariable object to conduct it in such manner as to prove both to them and others, whether friends or foes, that his design was not alone to assert and maintain his integrity and consistency of character and purpose, in opposition to the invidious and unfounded aspersions industriously circulated to his prejudice, but chiefly to promote the ends of truth and justice in the administration of the School affairs, as the best and likeliest means to afford permanent benefit to the Institution itself—in its respectability and usefulness; upon PUBLIC grounds alone, not from PRIVATE pique, nor with any view or design to open up any PERSONAL quarrel, and especially as regards those with whom, for so many previous years he had lived on perfectly amicable, not to say intimate terms, of cordial friendship and mutual good offices.

Furthermore, these same parties likewise know that the direct grounds of complaint, as stated in the writer's first official letter to Dr. Murray, the President, and inserted at pp. 3—6, of the "HISTORY" etc., related almost exclusively to certain irregularities and departures from the fundamental principles upon which the Schools were originally established, by divers *Resolutions* of PUBLIC MEETINGS holden for the purpose at the time of their formation, and upon the *faith* of which the writer and others advanced their money, and not

upon any *slippery sliding scale*, or prospective uncertainty as to its honourable repayment; all which has been already demonstrated in the "HISTORY" aforesaid, to the entire satisfaction of every candid and impartial person who has yet read and considered it; and this, be it remembered, in despite of the efforts, however secret and combined, of a few prejudiced *Quakers* here to keep concealed those "ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS," which in *their Resolution*, based on mere assumptions, and sent to him by their Quaker Secretary, without any signature or sanction whatever, and therefore utterly worthless as an official document—they profess to have referred to, but have always been unwilling and very scrupulous to produce them, and, at length have ventured to deny their very existence; thereby, as far as they are able, to suppress the truth from being known or inquired into; and further, by resorting to various stratagems and devices, to intimidate, perplex, and as much as possible prevent the writer in the prosecution of the unwelcome task of this just and necessary exposure of such conduct in the way it deserves, and of their undivulged and mysterious purposes of undisturbed possession, and cheap security, in retaining their influence and management of the Schools, without at all aiding or contributing to pay off the debt originally contracted for the School Buildings, but rather discouraging and discountenancing every attempt towards it; willing indeed to remain with the entire receipt, control and management of the School, and the School funds in their own hands, but extremely averse to make any personal sacrifice, or incur further trouble about the matter, either as regards *principal or interest* (or even any allowance in shape of *rent* to cover such interest), so justly due to those who have an equitable and undoubted right to expect and require it at their hands, as the chosen Directors and Managers of the Schools for the time being, after that the Trustees, duly appointed, had so generously and confidentially, by Special Deed of Declaration of Trusts, on their part, vested the School Buildings as PUBLIC PROPERTY, for the purpose of securing it for its destined

use, and with the avowed understood object of indemnifying the money-lenders the amount of the respective sums advanced, to the full extent of their just claims, individually and collectively, through the instrumentality of these same Managers or Committee of Subscribers for the time being, as by the Deed of Declaration of Trusts in their hands more fully appears.

Thus, supported and encouraged by the testimony of my own conscience, and the convincing evidence of *documents* and *facts* which cannot be refuted or disproved, and fortified also by the full and entire approbation of my oldest and most esteemed "FRIENDS," several of them in the religious society, PROPERLY so denominated, and many others out of it (among whom I have great pleasure in numbering your good self), I may assure you I feel little concern about the *opinions* of the prejudiced or interested few here, who cordially hate and cautiously shun all fair investigation as to *FACTS*;\* nor will I refrain, in the further progress of their discussion, from expressing my sincere and honest sentiments, without fear, favour or affection, adhering strictly to the rule proposed at the commencement of the "HISTORY," (p. 2) by exhibiting, so far as I know and believe, "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth," without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

I am, dear Sir, etc.

G. D.

\* Verifying herein the truth of the poet's keen satire, viz.—

"For matters of *fact* I am no great stickler,  
But as to *opinions* I'm very partickler."



## LETTER II.

---

"Who steals my purse, steals trash—'t is something—nothing;  
'T was mine, 't is his, and has been slave to thousands:  
But he who filches from me my good name,  
Robs me of that which not enriches him,  
And makes me poor indeed."

*Shakspeare.*

DEAR SIR,

As soon as the publication of "The History and Mystery of the Scarborough Lancasterian Schools" became generally known by the advertisement of the work in the several county and other papers, it excited the sullen murmur of discontent, and the morbid smouldering of dissatisfaction among the Quakers here, and many of their near relatives at *York*, with a fixed resolution to oppose it, if not openly, at least secretly; and this feeling of uneasy disquietude first discovered itself after a notice given by the Editor of "The Yorkshireman," in his paper of the 21st of November, 1840, addressed "To Correspondents," as follows; viz.—"As our paper was going to press, we received a copy of 'The History and Mystery of the Scarborough Lancasterian Schools, by G. Davies, Esq.' to which we shall draw attention in our next." But whatever might have been the preventive cause, the expectation thus raised was never realised, as the subsequent paper informs its readers that the promised notice was necessarily deferred, together with one "On Settlement,"—an odd association truly! but just such a mode as the Quakers would be likely to suggest. The article literally ran thus: "we are


obliged to postpone some remarks on *Settlement* and Mr. Davies's 'History and Mystery' till our next," when all further notice of either was discontinued.

It is also rather a curious coincidence, that in the aforesaid paper, "The Yorkshireman," of the 21st November, 1840, a singularly striking paragraph, immediately preceding the above notice, informs its readers as follows:—"Professor Pickup, the celebrated illusionist, has been entertaining the inhabitants of Scarborough by his exhibition in the Town Hall; the various tricks and amusing performances introduced by him, and his great dexterity, excited the admiration of all present. He intends exhibiting on Thursday next, after which he purposes visiting York, where there is no doubt his talents will be duly appreciated, and meet with the same approbation as he has done in this town."

What effect the visit of this admired illusionist might have had in determining the line of conduct of our Scarborough Quakers, I pretend not to say; but certain it is, that from this time they appear to have made up their minds to follow his plan, and get up *their* exhibition of illusions at the Town Hall likewise, rather than by adopting the ordinary mode of a printed appeal to the public either in "The Yorkshireman," or otherwise.

Professor Pickup no doubt acted wisely and successfully in his vocation, and thus his shrewd copyists might calculate on equal admiration and acquittal, after a favourable hearing and safe verdict before a prejudiced judge and packed jury of their own friends and associates.

It is true the former course would have been more consistent and appropriate, in order to reply to and refute any *published statements* in the "History and Mystery," had they been able to do so; but then their convenient pretence and ready excuse on such occasions, is a lamentable want of money, and with this plea of a bankrupt treasury, they would fain avoid a full, fair, and searching investigation into the accounts and proceedings of the institution. Although the present depressed state



of the School Funds being, as is generally admitted and believed, only a natural consequence of such illusory and unsatisfactory measures in the disposition of its financial concerns shortly after its establishment until now, and further by declining to pay any attention to the just claims of its creditors.

But although this plan of miserable mystification and concealment may seem unaccountably strange to those connected with similar institutions in other parts, it is in accordance with the usual practice observed here among the Quakers in this respect, under analogous circumstances, and I am sorry to say too generally submitted to. In the present instance, the virtual Quaker Secretary, W. Rowntree, was it seems commissioned to send to me and publish, an unsigned and apparently unsanctioned paper, purporting to be a "Resolution," (which has been already copied in the "History and Mystery," etc., pp. 7 and 8), passed, as he says, appropriately enough, at the "Savings' Bank," by such as wished to save their own money, and felt perfect indifference to the sacrifice of the property and character of others; the *latter* being of far greater value than the *former*, if the authority of our great dramatic poet, whose lines grace the head of this letter, is of any weight in such case; and in order to judge rightly of the true spirit which actuated this zealous and vigilant functionary, he not only sent me next morning a copy of the supposed "Resolution," but made it generally known abroad, and actually went in person to the Custom-house, and read it openly there to Mr. Henry Fowler, the Comptroller, and before those who happened to be present (Mr. Fowler himself being a Vice-president, and of course an *ex-officio* Member of the Committee, but hitherto, as it seems, kept in ignorance of the transaction); and after having so proclaimed it, concluded in a strain of exultation and apparent triumph, in words such as these: "Now we have done with him, and shall take no further trouble about him;" little supposing or expecting—good, easy young man!—that this was only "the beginning of an end," as was observed at the time to one who informed me of it.



A Quarterly Meeting of the Society of Friends residing in this district, was held at Scarborough on the 8th of December, 1840, and after this date it became more and more obvious that the plans and tactics of the Quakers here had been settled and confirmed, perhaps in some consistory meeting or otherwise, not to print or publish any thing that might possibly commit themselves, but to trust to a demonstration or exhibition, which it was proposed should be got up at the Town Hall at the next General Annual Meeting, then near at hand, and in which some prominent person or persons—and who more suitable than Mr. John Rowntree, one of the Vice-presidents, and also an Elder of the Quaker Society here?—should take the place of the celebrated illusionist first-named, and exhibit some peculiar tricks and amusing performances, with his usual dexterity in quirks and quibbles, doubts and sophisms, and with little or no risk of interruption from his official co-adjustors, or from any of the privileged auditors who were admitted to the exhibition, by permission of his worship the Mayor, so that no extra charge would accrue thereby; observing the maxim of Johnny Gilpin and his good wife, who, “although on pleasure bent, they had a frugal mind,” and ending at length in similar mortification and disappointment. This economical and sage arrangement having been made, was soon after carried into effect, with *less regard to expense*, and on Saturday the 18th of December, 1840, a considerable number of very large placards or posting bills, measuring 27 inches by 20, were affixed at Newborough Bar, on the walls of the town and places of public resort, especially at the entrance doors and gates of the different dissenting meetings and chapels, thereby to attract the notice of the religious public on the following day (Sunday), containing intimation of the General Meeting that would take place at the Town Hall, on Tuesday, 22d of December, “to receive the Report of the Committee, and on other business, Dr. Murray, President, in the chair, at half-past six o'clock in the evening;” and that no mistake might arise as to what the “*other business*” related to, it was added at the

close of the said placard (although nothing of it is even mentioned or referred to in the body of the Report of the Committee) as follows; viz.—“A *refutation* will also be given of certain charges against the Managers of the Institution, contained in a publication recently issued, entitled “The History and Mystery of the Scarborough Lancasterian Schools, by George Davies, Esq.,” and over and besides these unusually large placards so copiously distributed all over the town, smaller sized handbills, and printed circular notes, were left at the shops and private houses, heedless of expense, so different to their former plea or pretence of economy on other occasions; and that nothing might be wanting to excite sympathy and engage attention, the several ministers of the respective congregations had each a copy of it served, for the purpose of being read from the pulpits of their chapels or meetings, and stating that such “Refutation” would actually take place; but at the Quakers’ Meeting it might possibly be heard only in a whisper—with a significant nod, or demure smile, understood among the initiated.

Now from such a formidable array, and note of preparation, most persons expected, and indeed it was quite natural they should expect, that the *printed report* of the Committee would have contained within *itself*, the promised and long looked for “refutation,” so as to be read and referred to in an authentic and tangible form, admitting of a reply, as it is presumed is customary on all similar occasions, especially where character and principle are concerned; or at least that they would have authorized some indifferent person so to act for them in that behalf in an open candid manner; and as a necessary prelude thereto would have carefully reviewed the true grounds of the pretended “resolution,” and the “original documents,” therein referred to (but as yet *non est inventus*), which their Quaker Secretary, W. Rowntree, had before promulgated in their name (or rather without their names), dated 8th of January, 1840, (*vide* History and Mystery, pp. 7 and 8); and after reviewing also in this connexion the full and complete “Cata-

gorical answer" thereto, at pp. 9—14 of the same History, etc., would have come to a definite conclusion upon the several important subjects to which they refer, and inserted the same in the published "*report*" itself, rather than depend on the mere *relation* of any individual who might be more or less personally interested in the issue of the matters in question.

When the evening of the 22d of December arrived, which was to witness the "*refutation of certain charges*," without specifying in what the alleged *charges* consisted, it were perfectly futile to expect anything like a fair and candid investigation would take place, because the object of the Meeting was not *inquiry*, but an *anticipated refutation*, and a foregone easy victory. Accordingly "The Yorkshireman" of the 26th of December contained a brief and not very impartial summary of the proceedings, evidently drawn up by one of their own clique of friends, *con amore*, rather for stage effect—"Dr. Murray, President, in the chair." It states, in substance, that the meeting was addressed by the Rev. G. B. Kidd, and one or two other reverends; also by James Tindall, Esq., and one or two Quakers, and a few others, either holding office, or being members of the Committee; in which it seems they complimented each other most lavishly, no one else being inclined to do so.

It further states, that "Mr. John Rowntree gave a detailed account of the origin and history of the Institution, in reply to some *calumnious charges* (without, as before said, indicating what particular *charges*, or wherein the alleged *calumny* consisted), by George Davies, Esq.;" and further that, "such was the impression produced on the meeting, which was very respectable," (of course no one could presume to doubt the contrary, if the reporter himself had not laid so much stress on this point). *Calumnious facts*, besides being a solecism in language, would not have answered the object of the writer, though in truth "The History and Mystery," etc., is made up of *facts* and *documents*, and of fair reasonings and deductions therefrom; leaving the proper parties to apply them to their

own minds and consciences, or to controvert them, if they are able, by sound and legitimate argument.

To proceed—on the motion of the Rev. G. B. Kidd, seconded by his relative, James Tindall, Esq., a “resolution of unabated confidence in the Committee,” (including of course themselves and their associates) was proposed and passed “without a dissentient voice,” no one caring, it seems, to disturb the self-complacent humour of the parties engaged in conducting this *mock* “refutation” and supposed triumph. We are further informed by this same sapient and impartial scribe, that one of the company (without giving his *respectable* name, or who from modesty, perhaps, wished to conceal it) declared that J. Rowntree had made the matter “as clear as the sun at noon-day.”

But if it were really so, is it not a pity that the Committee or J. R. had not given it in a tangible form, by writing or printing, for the satisfaction of others, as well as this same individual; in order to prevent certain surmises and mis-givings that the case is not quite so clear as this charitable friend believed it to be. True it is, there are none so blind as they who won't see, or stupid as those who will not understand, or prejudiced as those who will only examine one side of a question. Such characters, however amiable and respectable and moral in private life, must be left to enjoy their fools-paradise as they best may. But this is not the generally approved way to carry conviction to the minds of intelligent and impartial persons, who can easily see through the mists of error, and know that the cause of truth and justice stands in no need of any such adventitious aids and artful appliances to recommend it to the approbation of the wise and good. Indeed it would seem almost as if the waggish editor of “The Yorkshireman” viewed the case in this light, and (as in the first instance) appropriately and humorously introduces the account of this Meeting by a curious article, which precedes it, as follows—“very large numbers of wild geese have lately passed over Lincoln in a south-easterly direction:” and the

query is, whether the direction of their flight might not be a sleight-of-hand trick to conceal the application of it to the Scarborough Meeting, *which* immediately follows this portentous announcement.

The foregoing account is however the substance of the Report, as regards the "History," etc., as furnished to the editor of "The Yorkshireman," by his sapient correspondent. The Meeting lasted till a very late hour, and Mr. Rowntree's whining speech, which took up so much time in the delivery, was perfectly wearisome to many, and with regard to the main business it proved a *complete failure*. One elderly gentleman, Mr. D. Gray, rising in his place upon hearing his name mentioned by Mr. Rowntree as having received 18*l.*, and declared that it was "*a great mistake*;" for that he had only received 15*l.*, when others in his precise situation had been paid 18*l.* besides 3*l.* 15*s.* of interest, and which he thought very unfair, as he was equally entitled to receive the same on his part. This unexpected discovery occasioned a little interruption, so that the business of the Meeting was not, it would seem, so harmonious or *unanimous* as it was reported to have been in The Yorkshireman. And with respect to any invitation sent to me to attend such a meeting, after having so repeatedly and solemnly *protested* against their vaunted but really valueless "resolution," I really cannot myself discover what business I had there, and in this opinion all my friends with yourself concurred. Just in like manner was it desired by the Romanists that some of the Protestant Prelates should attend the Council of Trent; but Bishop Jewel, in his temperate and admirable letter to Signor Scipio, a Venetian nobleman, has clearly shewn that such attendance would have been unreasonable, and altogether inconsistent with their situation and profession as *Protestants*.

I am, etc.

G. D.

### LETTER III.

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“ Beware  
Of entrance into a quarrel, but being in,  
Bear it, that the opposer may beware of thee!”

---

DEAR SIR,

You very naturally ask me, what satisfactory or useful purpose could possibly have resulted from the semi-comic exhibition at the Town Hall, of which my last gave you a brief outline? and I will, therefore, endeavour in this to enumerate as faithfully as I can, some of the many incidents which took place in this connexion. Generally speaking, the company collected and admitted to witness what passed had never even heard of or seen, much less read or considered, “The History and Mystery,” etc., which Mr. Vice-President Rowntree had it appears, *ex officio*, engaged to *refute*. These uninformed persons were of course variously affected by the orator’s plaintive and piteous tones, and the loud and rapturous applause of his colleagues around him, but could not recollect or repeat anything in his address of an argumentative or demonstrative character, at all resembling a *refutation*, or any approach to it; and afterwards, upon reading over “The History,” etc. for themselves, were candid enough to confess—that they could not have believed half that was spoken, had they previously read it; whilst others of more astute minds, who had before read it, and knew by experience that the *facts* it contained were not easily to be overturned, came away even more fully persuaded than before of their truth and justice, and were not at all satisfied with the mere exhibition of a few papers and memorandums which no one could get access to but a favoured few, and not without contradiction from one

out of the many sufferers, who fearlessly maintained his position in spite of every attempt to silence him, as recorded in my last.

Another respectable gentleman who, *before* the publication of "The History," had denounced the pitiful peddling system which had been early practised in certain quarters, of departing from the rules originally established in paying a much lower price than 18*l.* to the unfortunate owners of the school buildings, which had been publicly recognised and agreed upon by various resolutions of previous meetings, as nothing less than disgraceful *jobbery* and bad faith, and utterly indefensible, yet, *after* the publication, in framing some excuse for the easy-tempered, and ill-advised President, he charitably expressed his belief that he had never carefully read the book, or perhaps even seen it, and that he did not suppose he would give himself the trouble to do either. I cannot of course vouch for the accuracy of every word, but the general import and effect of them are such as I have stated.

Shortly after the publication of "The History," etc. was announced, I was favoured by the receipt of many interesting letters from different friends in almost every grade of society; and if I mistake not, one of the first really affecting and consolatory letters which reached me after the above meeting at the Town Hall and its results became known, was from the much injured and aggrieved individual whose cause I had espoused and advocated, and whose hard case appears at the close of "The History," etc.; viz. *Mr. Wellborn Keatley*.

This letter from that aged, reduced, and probably self-instructed individual, will be read with varied emotions of pleasure as well as regret, by every person of true philanthropic and religious feeling, as rich in sentiments of gratitude and devotion, which it would be well if all would more strictly observe; and, to his credit be it remembered, that he was one of the earliest promoters and founders of the Lancasterian School System in Scarborough, as "The History," etc. pp. 96-7 clearly proves; being conscious, perhaps, in his own case of the

important advantages of an early elementary education, he was very desirous of communicating that benefit to others of the rising generation in similar circumstances. The following is a copy of his letter referred to, viz.—

“ London, January 26, 1841.

“ SIR,

“ Yours I received, and observed the same, and hope you will not think it was through ingratitude I did not answer your letter, and of receiving *The History and Mystery of the Lancastrian Schools*, for which I am much obliged to you for your great kindness, knowing that you had done everything that lay in your power, both for me and all others that wanted their rights due to them of the *Lancastrian Schools*;—and your honourable book will let them see it and read it, and know how wrong they have behaved by paying some their rights, and others not anything. Sir, I am sorry to say, I think you must have had a very harassed mind for sometime from the trouble you have taken both for me and others, but it is not in our power to pay you. We hope that the Lord will pay you.

“ From your most obedient and humble Servant,

“ (Signed) WELLBORN KEATLEY.”

“ George Davies, Esq.”

This letter speaks for itself—its own humble, grateful spirit is its best eulogy, yet sufficiently marked by decision and self-respect.

A few days prior to the receipt of the foregoing, I thought it right to present my esteemed medical attendant Thomas Weddell, Esq., with a copy of “*The History and Mystery*,” etc., and accompanied it by a little note to the following effect; viz. “ Having understood that Mr. Weddell was present at the annual meeting of the Lancastrian Schools, lately held at the Town Hall, where a promised *refutation* of my little work was so generally announced to be made, G. D. thinks it but right to present Mr. W. with the accompanying copy of it, as a token of respect, which it may be he has not yet read;



and to express his anxious desire that the party implicated will oblige him and the public by the exhibition of such supposed *refutation* or defence in some tangible and authentic form, agreeable to established usage in all such cases where a written statement has been promulgated in an authorized and open manner.

“Monday, 18 January, 1841.

“To Alderman Weddell, Scarborough.”

After two or three days I received the following courteous reply from that gentleman, viz.—

“Scarborough, January 21, 1841.

“MY DEAR SIR,

“I thank you for ‘The History and Mystery of the Scarborough Lancastrian Schools,’ which you have been kind enough to send me. The agitation of this affair cannot have been agreeable to any parties concerned:—for myself, personally, I have had so many engagements that I could pay little attention to it. I was always of opinion, that however the managers may have erred, they had but one object in view, that of serving the poor, and on no occasion put any of the funds into their own pockets. As a shareholder, which I always considered myself to be, was content to have the privilege of sending three children to the schools, and presumed it to be the original intention of the Founders. Mr. John Rowntree’s exposition at the Annual Meeting, at which I was present, seemed to remove the mystery to a considerable extent, and I think it but fair to you, as well as to the Subscribers to the schools, for him to publish his explanation, but with that I have nothing to do. Am exceedingly sorry that the Institution should suffer from divisions amongst its professed friends, and lament particularly that such division should deprive the poor of your countenance and support, as they at least, are no parties to it.

“I am, my dear Sir, yours faithfully,

“George Davies, Esq.”

THOMAS WEDDELL.”

The candid, courteous spirit of this letter, compensates in some measure for the misconception and consequent misrepresentation, quite unintentional, no doubt, of the stipulations and resolutions upon which the Schools were originally founded; which made it both decorous and even necessary to return the following reply to it; viz.—

“ Scarborough, 25 January, 1841.

“ MY DEAR SIR,

“ It is, as you must be aware, quite impossible for me to attempt to answer over and over again the same course of observation or remark which my various friends or opponents may choose to adopt, and you will therefore have the goodness to excuse my doing so in reply to your Letter of the 21st inst., believing, as I do, ‘The History,’ etc., therein referred to, will sufficiently exonerate me from such needless trouble, and to which no corresponding answer has or can be given. It is to this publication, therefore, that I most respectfully invite your attention. But you are pleased to say, that ‘*as a shareholder, which I always considered myself to be,*’ etc. Perhaps you are not aware that, for certain undefined reasons, you have only been recognised in this character by the latest List of Subscribers, just published; and that you informed me yourself, in November 1839, you had been allowed to occupy such position by the Quaker friends in committee, in consideration of an irrecoverable debt, due to you for medical attendance on a patient who had originally advanced money to the School, and by which process you reserved 18*s.* a year towards its liquidation, and paid over the difference of 3*s.* instead of 21*s.*, which you had formerly given to the School. So that you are now considered by these conscientious gentlemen, many of whom are not and do not wish to aspire to be considered *shareholders*, upon precisely the same footing as myself and others, who actually advanced 18*l.* each in hard cash, some twenty-seven or twenty-eight years ago; the principal, interest, and charges of which have been accumulating and unpaid in my case upwards of twenty-five years,

and yet, most inconsistently and falsely, the interest appears by the Treasurer's accounts to have been paid up to the present time. Your concern, however, in these Schools, may be equally, if not more valid, than that of some others, who, for all that has yet transpired, have only paid the trifling sum of 3*l.* 15*s.* for their supposed shares, leaving the poor sufferers to seek their remedy as they are able. Moreover, being yourself a member of the committee, and observing that you have expressed an opinion as follows—'*I think it but fair to you as well as to the subscribers to the Schools, for him (Mr. John Rowntree) to publish his explanation,*' etc. and then immediately afterwards adding '*but with that I have nothing to do.*' I own I am startled at such an avowal on your part; because, from your public position in this Borough, as an Alderman and past Mayor, even though you were not at present a member of the committee, I should have thought that, as a subscriber merely, and a devoted friend to the prosperity of the Schools, and especially as a lover of truth and justice and honourable conduct among the general community to which you belong, you must necessarily have *much to do* with its permanent peace and respectability; nor can you, in my humble judgment, entirely free yourself from the duties which those important relations impose on you. My late publication, or '*History,*' etc., has fairly pointed out the sources of the existing divisions, and at the same time their remedies are plainly and faithfully stated; and I cannot, I think, be justly blamed for declining to place any further confidence in the parties implicated therein, until a satisfactory adjustment of such divisions takes place.

" I remain, dear Sir,

" Yours very truly,

" GEORGE DAVIES."

" Thomas Weddell, Esq.,

" Scarborough."

Such, my dear Sir, were the views and feelings which I considered right to embody in my answer to an esteemed friend and correspondent, on this very simple right to ask for the

recognition and reimbursement of money publicly advanced by myself and others, and which, as a *trustee*, I conceive I was *doubly bound* to state, and to enforce by every reasonable and proper means. It appeals to original documents and facts, with the proofs contained in "The History," etc., which I believe cannot be resisted, much less *refuted*, by any Quaker art or sophistry whatever; but of this Mr. Weddell could not fairly judge at the time, not having had an opportunity to examine the case, or even to read it over attentively; and I may now add, that he has never since favoured me with any further letter on the subject. It remarks, but briefly indeed, upon the observation, "that however the managers might have erred, they had but one object in view—that of serving the poor—and on no occasion put any of the money into their own pockets;" because I was not then, nor am I now, satisfied that this *one single object* has been constantly and universally the ruling one, strictly and invariably observed in this School concern, and which may properly enough be the subject of future investigation and inquiry. It however distinctly and with sincerity notices the practical mistake of the writer, in supposing that he had "always considered himself a shareholder," by shewing that he had only very recently been recognised as such by his shrewd Quaker friends in committee, in their last report; and for the purpose, no doubt, of securing his patronage and support for the future. It likewise apprised him of the much more advantageous position in which he stood as the holder of a desperate, irrecoverable book-debt, for medical aid, by saving 18s. a year in perpetuity, and paying but 3s. a year for tickets admitting three children to the Lancasterian Schools, so long at least as there were masters or mistresses, and proper funds for the payment of their salaries; while, on the other hand, it has been insinuated, if not asserted, that I, and others in my situation, after advancing some thirty years ago 18*l.* each, in hard cash, and in a time of extreme pressure, was never to look for reimbursement of the original outlay of money, or even interest, however specially understood

and promised at the time by divers resolutions of public meetings, as quoted and referred to in "The History" aforesaid; but instead of this, must submit to the annoyance of having my name published as a *subscriber* to the Schools, and a *shareholder* against my will, and compelled thereby to be associated with those who wittingly or unwittingly uphold and promote such mean and unworthy practices; and then, most insultingly to every feeling of justice and common sense, call this "*a privilege*" forsooth! of getting some chance of the return of the 18*l.* by a paltry saving of 3*s.* a year, and of presenting three children for education in a public school, under such *auspicious* management.

In this way, supposing the parties to be *long lived*, and the School buildings to exist for one hundred and twenty years! there might be a possibility of realising the 18*l.* of principal by the aforesaid saving of 3*s.* a year, but on no other principle could it be attained; and hence the simple question arises—Did I and others understand this at the time we made our advance of money? I confidently answer for myself I did not, nor can it be believed that any *sane* person could so understand it. Nor in all my experience or inquiries of any similar institution formed at this period, can I find any one established upon such a sandy or slippery foundation. My "History" adduces two examples out of many; viz. the Spitalfields and the Tottenham Lancastrian Schools, precisely to the contrary, which are irrefragable proofs, and strictly in point, of the justness of my remarks.

I am, dear Sir, etc.

G. D.

## LETTER IV.

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“ The arguments of tyrant rulers are as contemptible, as their united power is hateful:—their name is LEGION.”

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DEAR SIR,

THE conclusion of my last Letter contrasted the honourable proceedings and conduct of the influential and highly respectable SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, in regard to their Schools established in and near LONDON, in the year 1812, with the very different behaviour of the *clique* of our *Scarborough Quakers*, as now of late manifested in their attempts to suppress inquiry, and even to deny the existence of the articles, “Resolutions, and Original Documents,” entered into at the formation of the “Lancasterian Schools” here, instituted at the very same time, and upon principles consonant thereto: thus disagreeing with all the other Schools of the time and character, and openly avowing, maintaining and objecting, by *Dr. Murray*, their president, apologist and special pleader, that “if they were to pay one claim, they must go on to pay all;” which is about as puerile in argument as the child’s dislike to learn his letters; viz. “If I say A, I must say B, and thus go on to C and D.” Again, it is urged, that “to pay all is plainly impossible,” etc. (*Vide* “History and Mystery, p. 42). But I have often heard a good man, now deceased, quaintly and pithily observe: “Give me a *will* and I’ll soon find you a way;” and truly if this pertinacious and frivolous objection is to be allowed any weight, so as to paralyse all exertion, why not at once boldly pass a *resolution* to confiscate the whole property? This would at least be a simple, intelligible proceeding, however arbitrary or unjust. In fact, such manifest breach of faith is totally indefensible by any just argument, and depends solely upon arbitrary will, backed by a pusillanimous

dread of consequences, and maintained by a self-seeking majority in possession of the use of the School Buildings, for their own ends and purposes, perhaps of personal aggrandisement, or possible contingent advantages accruing from such entire patronage of the School and of its secular interests. Thus injustice is often as deaf to the voice of argument, or the plaint of the wronged, as it is blind to the contempt which is inspired by its inconsistencies. Dogged silence or supercilious selfishness prevail over the claims, the self-evident claims of right, turn aside the straightforward course of justice, and hold the easily persuaded and ductile mind of the otherwise amiable President in abject subjection to their views and wishes, whose cause he has so indiscreetly espoused and advocated; forcing him to abandon the suggestions of his better nature on other similar subjects. And because a perfectly fair adjustment is said by Dr. Murray to be "quite impossible," he prefers and recommends *injustice in the gross*; and in this way it is obvious any other crime may stand excused. Yet these *friendly Quakers* make great professions of a *quiet spirit*, and to have an instinctive horror of *resistance*, and it might be as well 'if they more constantly *practised* what they *profess*; but theirs is the quiet, the *delusive quiet* of the strong over the weak and powerless; and the *resistance* they most dread is the exposure of their doublings and curvetings, and what is usually known or understood by "*shaping their language*" so as to avoid as much as possible the fearful charge of "speaking lies in hypocrisy," which they well know is closely connected with others equally fearful, and would much rather stimulate others to incur than commit themselves.

Another characteristic excuse for withholding all inquiry or exertion in this behalf, is—"I cannot conceive that I have any business to involve myself at all, *merely as a subscriber and friend of the School.*" (*Vide* in "History and Mystery," the President's Letter, pp. 48, 49). This, in a certain sense, may be very true; but then be pleased to recollect that the entire management of the School, and the finances of it, are, by the

declaration of trusts, vested in the committee of subscribers, chosen by themselves, and subject to the repayment of the loans of money as contracted for when the School was instituted in 1812; and for the President, the three Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, the major part of the present Committee, with the two Secretaries, who did not contribute anything by such loans towards the establishment of the Schools, now to turn round and to use this selfish and really unprincipled excuse, in order to shake off all *personal* responsibility in such a case, is not very dissimilar to that of the Irishman, who, when his neighbour's house was on fire, and having got all his own moveables safe about him, begged to decline all interference or assistance whatever, consoling himself with the idea that he was "only a lodger."

Without any prejudice to the claim of right, however, I think I might freely admit that the President and others, may not, as *mere subscribers*, be *individually* and *legally* liable, beyond their annual subscriptions; yet in a *moral* sense, having accepted the *honours* of the society, and having certain *public duties* to perform, they cannot be absolved in equity and justice for retaining as they do, and have done for thirty years last past, the use of the Schools, knowing that not any part of the original outlay of money advanced has ever been repaid to those who so opportunely and generously came forward in time of need to maintain the *public property* and prosperity of the Schools, and to put the same into effective operation, on *public grounds*, and for the lasting benefit of the children of the town, upon the most liberal and unexclusive system.

It is very true that the President, over and above his annual subscription of 1*l.* 1*s.*, did on one occasion, upon being elected to the office newly created for him, in or about 1829, give a handsome donation of 5*l.* 5*s.*; but this coming into the hands of the Quaker treasurer, as well as many other handsome donations and bequests to a considerable amount, at different times, have been swallowed up in the general account of disbursements, brief abstracts of which are given in the trea-



suror's *unaudited* accounts from year to year, but without any thought of, or the least provision made for, the unsatisfied claims of the deceived and much-aggrieved money-lenders of 1812. Now, I have likewise myself, on different occasions, *given* sundry sums towards rebuilding the Baptist Meeting, and the present deserted Methodist Chapel, at this place; and provided the necessary amount of money could have been raised by *free gifts* in this way for the Lancasterian Schools, it is very probable I should have contributed thereto as *freely as others*; but it is a well-ascertained and plainly recorded *fact*, however the Quakers may have endeavoured to suppress or deny it, that "it was quite impracticable to obtain the sum of 450*l.* in donations, or to dispose of shares," (*vide* "History and Mystery," p. 101), as had been previously suggested; and the only alternative, therefore, was to borrow the money of those who were willing to lend it in loans of 18*l.* each, which several shopkeepers in the town, much to their honour, agreed to advance in a temporary way, who certainly never meant to *give it in toto*; some of whom afterwards felt, and others still feel, the want of it, in their embarrassed circumstances; and many others, removed by death, have left this hitherto unproductive legacy to their kindred and near relatives, who have to lament this act of indiscreet confidence of their ancestors, and experience the *insufficiency* of honest precaution, when ingenious manœuvre is secretly working against it, but are waiting some fortunate revolution in the conduct of the School affairs, to realize what they can out of the wreck and ruin of their several interests in this untoward and sadly mismanaged business.

Now, if any blame is supposed to attach to myself and others, for having placed too great confidence in the subscribers generally, or in the *managing committee*, their representatives, I most unreservedly confess that I was one of the first to propose and advocate the settling the *property* of the School under a declaratory deed of trust, and vesting the *management* of its affairs in a committee of subscribers; because, from all that had hitherto occurred here, as well as my experience of

such matters elsewhere, I felt convinced that unless this plan was adopted, no substantial security could be had; that in process of time, what was intended to be a PUBLIC INSTITUTION, would become PRIVATE PROPERTY, notwithstanding the large sums collected and expended in its first and second establishment, in 1810 and 1812; and I was further of opinion, and believed, it would be considered an additional reason with many, to contribute the more freely to its support, as it generally produces that effect with really ingenuous and well-disposed persons. However, I have since found by melancholy experience, that many of the original proprietary shareholders of 1810, were quite right in requiring a specific payment (though with considerable loss) of the several sums which they had conditioned to receive before they parted with their respective interests, or signed the deeds of lease and release, at present in my possession, as trustee, (with the exception only of Mr. Wellborn Keatley, whose case will have some further notice hereafter). These retiring shareholders knew the parties they had to deal with better than I did, who was then but a stranger among them, and, as it has since proved, were fully justified in using every caution in their dealings with the slippery sort of folks who put themselves so conspicuously forward on this occasion, to lend their countenance to the scheme to draw in the unwary, but excused themselves from the loan of money; and, as it has turned out, those who talked most, really did the least; verifying the truth of the Spanish proverb, "*mucha lengua y poca lana*," literally, much talk and little wool, applied to such as with large professions make but slender performances.

I am, dear Sir, etc.

G. D.

## LETTER V.

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"Those only are faithful who are strictly just and true.  
Equivocation is a mark of cowardice and meanness of spirit."

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DEAR SIR,

FROM what has been already advanced in my last and former Letters, as well as in "The History and Mystery" throughout, you can be at no loss, I think, to perceive that from the very first it was well understood and believed the Committee were to lend their zealous efforts and honest endeavours, in order to free the Institution from all its just debts and encumbrances, at the earliest possible period; and to this end, to keep the Subscribers and Public in general duly informed of the state of the School Finances in the several branches, as well as with the progress and success of the Educational operations, conformably to the usages in all other Lancasterian Schools at this time raised and supported by voluntary contributions, and settled in *trust* for public security. Indeed this principle, so reasonable and just in itself, was, I find by referring to the Second Yearly Report of 1814-15, entirely recognised and acted upon, as clearly appears upon the face of that Report and the Address attached to it, which I have carefully preserved among *my* "Original Documents," but which the Committee of 1840 (or certain members of it) would seem to repudiate; either not having found them among *their* "Original Documents," or having found them, are very unwilling to produce the same.

The following is an additional extract from that Report before referred to, viz.—"The Committee have to report that agreeably to the resolution of the last General Meeting, the property has been conveyed to Trustees therein named, who have since executed the Deed of Trust." This same Report also congratulates the Subscribers in terms following:—"Your Committee, in reporting the state of the institution committed

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to their care, have the pleasure of congratulating their constituents on the increased interest that has existed in favour of the Lancasterian School since the last General Meeting, the consequence of which has been a considerable addition to the List of Subscribers, and an increased number of Scholars in the School."

Now, my dear Sir, without vanity, I may assure you that to produce these desirable and cheering results had personally engaged much of my time; and the Treasurer's accounts for this year shew a balance in his hands of 82*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* from annual subscriptions only, exclusive of any congregational collections or bequests, which at this early establishment of Schools were not reckoned upon. This appears to be the largest balance either before or since, except perhaps that of 1829, which shewed one of 88*l.* 5*s.* 11½*d.*; and this might have been occasioned by the *éclat* of Dr. Murray's presidency, then recently created, and which produced in donations 88*l.* 5*s.* So that in fact, but for these *extraordinary donations* the balance would have been next to nothing at this time. At the particular period to which I have before alluded, in 1814-15, an Address usually accompanied each Report, and from MS. papers in my hands, I find this was drawn up *at request* by myself. The Report and accounts were, of course, more particularly committed to the two Mr. Rowntrees, father and son. The Address was thought appropriate to the then situation of the School, and was accordingly adopted, and published with the Report, but I cannot now conveniently transcribe it—however, should you hereafter require to have it, I can furnish a true copy of it, either from my MS. or the printed Report. But although it was considered at the time a suitable and satisfactory Address, I cannot be sure that either of the Mr. Rowntree's, sen. or jun., cordially approved of it. This second year's balance in the Treasurer's hands of 82*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* was, as I have before said, the largest (except in the single instance before excepted) that has been reported either before or since, to my knowledge; and I well remember having taken considerable pains, and spent much time and

labour, in order to produce it, as those best know who were witnesses of it:—but the uniform desire, and as I thought, the *too eager and unreasonable desire* of the Messrs. Rowntree, to retain the whole of this balance in their hands as a sort of *guarantee fund* to answer the contingent expenses of the Master's and Mistress's Salaries, and other minor charges of casual occurrence, seemed to be the sole or principal object they had in view; which certainly gave me some surprise, considering *as I then did*, that by the Report and printed List one of the Mr. Rowntree's at least was supposed to have held some *pecuniary* interest (which was never well understood, and has since become more doubtful than ever) in the permanent prosperity and character of the School; and for two or three years I buoyed myself up with the hope that in justice to himself, if not in fair consideration of the claims of others, he or they would originate some equitable plan for the gradual extinction or diminution of every just demand upon the Institution, and account for the moneys originally collected and entrusted to the Treasurer for the very *express purpose* of founding or remodeling the Schools, and of paying off the retiring shareholders, and especially their *interest*, due for two and a half years preceding. Nothing however of this kind was ever reported, to my knowledge, or any such account produced, although it is admitted that various payments of *interest* were made from it, according to Mr. John Rowntree's own Letter, inserted in the History and Mystery, pp. 71—75.

Still I continued to cherish that kind of charitable feeling which “beareth, believeth, hopeth, and endureth all things;” until by degrees I came to be convinced that the desire professed by Messrs. Rowntree to keep all notice of the original debt upon the School from appearing in the Reports, or even voluntarily accounting for the moneys actually received towards this *specific object*, under the notion or apprehension of its doing an injury to the School, was, if not really affected, so entirely groundless that I could not henceforward lend my personal countenance to such a fatal delusion. It was indeed perfectly natural for the Treasurer to wish to keep a good

round sum of balance in hand, but then it seemed to me unreasonable in itself and very unfair towards the public creditors of the Institution, to keep the numerous visitors of the Schools, many of them strangers frequenting Scarborough only during the summer season, in perfect ignorance of any pending or subsisting debt or incumbrance upon it, on the face of the reported accounts from year to year—inasmuch as it was making a mere parade or *puppet show* of the School, taking up the Master and Mistress's time needlessly and unprofitably, besides interfering with the proper business of the scholars in their various duties, and with little hope of any countervailing benefit. This extraordinary course I found so fondly and pertinaciously persisted in, that I did not fail to remonstrate against it as far as I personally could, but without the least effect. It did, however, assuredly make the name and shop of Messrs. Rowntree better known and much more frequented by all parties, and especially to many ladies among the Society of Friends, and others who took a laudable interest in the inspection and management of the Girl's department. But with regard to the recruiting the finances of the School, and the promotion of its permanent interest and prosperity, respectability and usefulness, nothing surely could be more ill-advised or worse-conducted; and on this account, as well as others, I felt imperatively obliged, on personal and conscientious grounds, to withhold my continued countenance and active support to such measures;—whether I was right or wrong I leave with confidence to the sober judgment of every candid and unbiassed mind. I did not however come to this resolution in any fit of intemperate heat, or at all rashly or inconsiderately, for I suffered my name to remain on the Subscribers' lists at 1*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* even a third year, viz. 1815-16, continuing, though not on the Committee, to act as I had always heretofore done, with the same lively zeal for the prosperity of the Institution; but owing to the free expression of my opinion and wish that a part of the balance of 82*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* as reported in 1814-15 should be applied to the reduction of the original debt, I found to my extreme

regret that the objection of Messrs. Rowntree was not likely to be withdrawn, and that the least hint about it was the occasion of irritation and unpleasant feeling. Now of the twenty-five names of individuals who conveyed the property of the Schools, (always excepting Mr. W. Keatley) to the Nine Trustees, as already detailed in the History and Mystery, p. 115, there are doubtless some among them of great wealth and importance, who cared little about the matter, while many others, being in trade and shopkeepers in the town, felt inconvenienced and aggrieved by the outlay of their loans, but could not, in their circumstances, prudently express their feelings on the occasion, so freely as myself and others not engaged in business. To such persons a preference might have been given, without at all disturbing the order and harmony of the Society. But for gentlemen of large possessions and great riches to neglect or refuse to take into consideration the situation and circumstances of their poorer townsmen, and virtually, by their silence or tacit acquiescence, not to interpose their influence, at least so far as to afford a fair chance or means of redress, is what *I cannot in good faith and sound principle adopt for myself*. A man may be permitted to please himself with regard to the distribution of his *own* property, but not so as regards the rights and property of *others*; and the obligation is vastly increased, in my opinion, if he be constituted a *trustee* for others, as was at the first literally the case with myself and eight others, six of them being since dead. My main object at this time was to have applied 50*l.* of the balance of 82*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* in hand, towards relieving so far the debt of 450*l.* on the Institution. This sum, on an equal partition among twenty-five, would have given 2*l.* to each contributor, and cancelled one-ninth part of the reduced estimate or cost of the buildings; but as some might have needed their money more than others, let all such have had a larger share, and let the richer ones wait to be paid hereafter, or if they chose voluntarily to give up all or any part of their rightful claim in favour of the Institution, *at their option*; such an application of this surplus balance, *especially if followed up with hearty good-will and zealous*

*exertion*, would long ago have obliterated every trace of incumbrance on the Schools; and, instead of the general funds in the Treasurer's hands being exhausted, *a fresh stream of benevolence and of public confidence* would have set in year by year, and the finances been better improved and more firmly established by such open, honest, and straightforward proceeding, which even a child might read and understand, and of which all must approve.

Supposing this plan to have been adopted, there would still have remained 32*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*, together with or independent of any further sum in the Treasurer's hands, arising from the donations and collections originally raised for paying the *interest* due to the old shareholders; and so far as it might extend, to buy up any of the proprietary shares of the retiring ones, at 18*l.* each on the *public account*, and for which purpose money was collected and paid to the Treasurer (as stated in "The History and Mystery," pp. 85 and 118), and has never, to my knowledge, been distinctly accounted for unto this day.

No doubt the late Mr. Rowntree's accounts, kept by himself, would throw considerable light on this mysterious subject, but although these books were provided for the *special* record of these accounts, and were doubtless bought with the *public* money placed at his disposal, yet his son and successor has hitherto declined to make them public, for general satisfaction, and constantly and cautiously avoids every question concerning such accounts.

I had almost forgotten to say, that although I could not, consistently with my views of equity and fair dealing, cordially co-operate with those who wished to keep up such secret and delusive projects, yet I took considerable pains to prepare what I thought might be a fitting Address to be appended to the "Third Annual Report of 1815-16," as I have referred to and summarily stated in "The History and Mystery," pp. 107-108, and a manuscript copy of which I preserve among my papers, to be produced at a future time, should you wish it.

I remain, dear Sir, yours, etc.,

G. D.



## LETTER VI.

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"If you lend money, let it be for a definite time, for the interest of an old debt is often paid by ill-usage, and sometimes ill-language."

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DEAR SIR,

As I commenced writing these letters at your particular desire, and intend to submit them to you, and my family and friends, as a faithful memorial of the whole course of my connexion with the Scarborough Lancasterian School—and of the harassing and unjust treatment from time to time received from the Quaker Committee, or Confederacy, in support of their unrighteous pretensions and proceedings, I request you will bear with me, if in the further detail of these measures I am constrained to incur the natural, and perhaps unavoidable fault of egotism, if not tautology, more or less excusable in one of my age. Although I can assure you it is and has been my sincere wish to avoid both of these errors, so far as compatible with distinctness and force, in the statements I have yet made or may hereafter make; and I consider it better to make this avowal and apology now, by way of anticipation of, and preparation for the several important letters of the President, Dr. Murray—and the Quaker Treasurer, Isaac Stickney, which will be exhibited to your notice and commented upon, in the conclusion of my observations on this long pending and really iniquitous transaction, from its origin in 1812, to the present year 1842, embracing a period of *thirty years*.

My last Letter (V.) stated the grounds upon which I conscientiously declined to co-operate any longer in the support of a system so entirely opposed to what had been originally intended, and altogether adverse to the principles upon which

all the Lancasterian Schools, *elsewhere* as well as *here*, were established in 1812-13, and such also as were specifically set forth in the Resolution of the Public Meeting of 19th and published 24th February, 1813—when Mr. *John Rountree* was Chairman, and was then carried into effect, and the Public Property of the School vested in nine Trustees, who executed a Deed of Trust for that express purpose. Such departure from good faith and honest principle, I fearlessly and frequently denounced at the time, as likely to be attended with the very worst consequences, not merely to the finances of the Institution, but more especially as it would affect the real utility and respectability of it. The foundation of all justice is truth—and as *Scriptural Education* was professed to be the distinctive characteristic of these Schools, even the young children taught to read their Bible would soon learn from the Sacred page the meaning of those simple words, “Whatever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.” “Be just before you are generous,” is a good old maxim; but our Scarborough Quakers would, it seems, make the *generosity* of others the pioneer of their *injustice*, when difficulties are to be met and fairly coped with. Now as, in ordinary cases, money can only be obtained in one or other of the three following ways, viz. by *begging*, *borrowing*, or *stealing*, and as the *first* mode of raising it was found to be *impossible*, and the *last* is not imputed, it necessarily follows that it must have been *borrowed*, unless by some ingenious contrivance another means has been found out to accomplish the end, independent of honest labour or exertion, by exchanging empty *promises* for the hard sterling *cash* of such as have been induced to place any confidence in them. In all such cases I quite agree in sentiment with those who think that the true remedy is to be found not in *Law*, but in *Opinion*. The existence of the abuse must be made known clearly and distinctly to all; being made known, it must be made disgraceful; if it be sanctioned unhappily by local prejudices or private interest, an Appeal must be made from these localities or privacies to the judgment of a less partial tribunal, and in

every way in which the minds of men can be operated on. It is therefore, I humbly conceive, the bounden duty of every individual injured and misrepresented as I have been, to expose such conduct, from whatever quarter it may have arisen, as it deserves, in justification of his own character, and by way of caution to others.

Upon relinquishing, however, my connexion as a *Subscriber* to the Scarborough Schools, in February 1815, I paid up one year's subscription (1*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*) in advance, to February 1816, and at the same time intimated my intention of discontinuing it in future. I received likewise from Messrs. Rowntree, 18*s.* for one year's *interest* then *due* to me for the antecedent year, February 1814-15, but not in *advance*, as was my paid-up subscription, *prospectively*; and after this last transaction, I constantly avoided giving further countenance or assistance to the School Managers, and of course discontinued the receipt or the use of admission tickets for any more children, although it appears from my notes, which I always carefully preserve, that on 23rd February 1816, two gentlemen of the School Committee, who I presume it was supposed had most influence with me (Mr. W. Smith and another), did call to converse with me about the subscription for another year; which I stedfastly resisted, and at the same time gave them my reasons for it; and from this time, neither from Messrs. Rowntree, nor any other, could I ever obtain the least satisfaction for the year's interest *then due*, and *since growing due*, but have been constantly put off with vague excuses of the expediency of keeping a good balance in the treasurer's hands; of the gradual diminution of the subscriptions; and at last, of the general decline and poverty of the Institution itself.

Having thus introduced you to the origin of my connexion with the School Managing Committee, as established by the Resolutions of Public Meeting of 19th, and published 24th February 1813, "*John Rowntree in the chair*," as briefly referred to herein, and which you may find more fully reported in the published "*History and Mystery*," etc. pp. 100, 101; and having

also stated the reasons which compelled me to discontinue any direct countenance or active support, and never once accepting of the proposed *option* to pay anything less than the *full price* of the general Subscribers to the Schools, and not any *reduced or differential price*, and receiving the interest on the loan of 18*l.* for the two first years at 18*s.* each year; and by which regular proceeding I gave ample proof that I meant to adhere to my rightful claim of interest *at my option*, not *theirs*, in all future time; I will now go on in a methodical course to state every particular of each sum either paid or received, and when and by whom, so as to establish upon the clearest possible grounds the justness of the claim both of principal and interest;—and beginning first with the several Annual Subscriptions which were paid by me to Mr. John Rowntree, the treasurer, without any diminution or deduction whatever, as I have extracted them from my books at the several times hereunder, viz.

	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1813, February 26 (just two days after the Resolution of 19th, published 24th inst. was passed), paid Mr. Rowntree one year's Subscription to February next, for two Children . . . . .	1	1	0
1814, February 11, paid do. for self and Mrs. D. one year's ditto to ditto, for three Children . . . . .	1	11	6
1815, February 15, paid do. for do. one year's do. for do. to 1816 . . . . .	1	11	6

And, as before said, these several sums were actually paid by me *in full*, and were quite distinct from any charge for *interest*; the former being paid in *advance*, and the last *retrospectively*, when actually due at the end of each year; so that it is impossible to mix one with the other (as the Quaker Managers very cunningly wish to do), unless for the purpose of mystification or unfair dealing.

Now with respect to the payment of the 18*l.* advanced on loan to the Managing Committee on account of the Schools, I

collect from my books the following *facts*, which give indubitable proof of the exact regularity with which I conducted this small affair, in the same precise order as I would always wish to observe in more important concerns. Immediately after the date of the Resolution of 19th, published 24th of February 1813, having previously agreed to advance 18*l.* on the terms and principle stated therein, to be paid *interest at my option* (not at *theirs*, as I have already stated), until its repayment should take place in whole or in part, and having also offered to pay the money to Mr. Rowntree, the treasurer, then, or whenever he chose to receive it,—I set aside from any other cash, and sealed up, the said 18*l.*, expecting it might be called for any day. However, shortly after, having been called up to London on private affairs, I left out the packet so sealed on Wednesday the 7th April, 1813, with proper directions about it. On that very day the late Rev. Mr. Bottomley favoured us with a pastoral visit, and upon parting he gave me a 5*l.* Bank-note and a letter for a mutual friend in London, both which circumstances were briefly noted down at the time with other matters, so that there can be no doubt whatever about them;—it should be here observed that I had frequently offered to pay the money so agreed to be advanced, but Mr. Rowntree always declined or put off receiving it, by saying that there was one of the original proprietary shareholders (Mr. Thomas Tindall) who could not be persuaded to come into the terms proposed by and agreed upon with the others, and that as it was thought I had some acquaintance with him, it was particularly wished that I should use my best influence to induce him to accept the 18*l.* same as the others, and with additional interest, as he was very unwilling to be so considerable a loser, and would not sign the Deeds of Conveyance until he was satisfied. This refusal on his part caused some delay in the settlement with others, as the Deeds of Lease and Release bear date the 12th and 13th days of July, and the “Resolution” was passed on the 19th, and published 24th February same year.

When I returned to Scarborough on the 7th of August following, I found matters in this unsettled state, and although the other proprietors had signed the Deeds, except Mr. Thomas Tindall, and Mr. Wellborn Keatley (which *last* being absent, could not be a party to it), and no one could induce the *former* of these to agree to the terms offered, and in consequence his name had been left out of the *general* attestation to the signatures of others, by the professional agents employed on the occasion—and the said Deeds were placed in my hands, and I was to endeavour to prevail with Mr. Thomas Tindall to accede to the general arrangement, and to sign them, with instructions that I should thereupon fill up on the back of the Deed the customary attestation, and get one of my servants to witness the signing and executing in due form; accordingly I took the earliest opportunity of conversing calmly with Mr. Tindall on the subject, and recommended his receiving from Mr. Rowntree his quota of *interest*, due for two and half years (*3l. 15s.*), as several others had done, and that I would pay him the 18*l.* without further trouble or delay; and with much persuasion he at length took my advice; as I find by a particular entry in my pocket-book of the 9th of August 1813, that both he and Mrs. Tindall called at my house, and having arranged the matter with him, I summoned my man servant John Wilkinson, and opening the packet which had been sealed up since February preceding, I paid Mr. Tindall the 18*l.* which it contained, and wrote on the back of the Deed with my own hand the requisite attestations, as I had been instructed to do. Mr. Tindall executed the Deed; and the same was witnessed by the said John Wilkinson as “Signed, Sealed, and Delivered” in his presence. This I may assure you, dear Sir, is a correct and perfect account of the whole transaction, and *I must request your very particular attention* to it, because before I shall have entirely finished these Letters, you will see how *necessary it is to be kept in view*, for the detecting and defeating the unfounded and unworthy attempts which have been made to mislead, in misrepresenting

this matter, by certain parties whose names and proceedings will hereafter appear. Mr. Thomas Tindall, after this, removed to Hull, and was drowned in the Humber, many years ago. John Wilkinson lived two or three years in my service, and is also dead, but the receipts for his wages can be produced at any time to verify his handwriting.

Upon a brief analysis of this Loan account with the Committee of Managers, its particulars will be found as follows: viz.

*Lancasterian School Committee Scarborough.*

Dr.	£.	s.	d.
1813, February 24. To cash advanced on Loan, per agreement, and published resolution of this date	18	0	0
1814, February 24. To interest one year, to this day . . . . .	0	18	0
1815, February 24. To interest do. do. . . . .	0	18	0
	<u>£. 19</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>0</u>

*Per Contra.*

	Cr.	£.	s.	d.
1814, February. By cash received, one year's interest on 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ Loan from Mr. Rowntree to 24th inst. . . . .		0	18	0
1815, February. By do. do. due 24th inst.		0	18	0
		<u>1</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>0</u>
Balance due amount of Loan.		18	0	0
		<u>£. 19</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>0</u>

	£.	s.	d.
To this Balance, brought down . . . . .	18	0	0
Add 27 year's interest, from February 1815, to February 1842, at 18s. per annum . . . . .	24	6	0
	<u>£. 42</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>

due to G. D. Exclusive of other unavoidable expenses to some amount, which the transaction entailed on me.

From hence you may clearly perceive the mischief which even in a pecuniary point of view these vexatious doings have produced and perpetuated: which the President, Dr. Murray, in one of his Letters (*vide* History and Mystery, p. 37), supposes in his bland and charitable way, to have arisen from some "*cross reading*." If so, it is a "*cross reading*" entirely with him and his party, as any one not blinded by prejudice, or something worse, may easily discover for himself. After all, the money amount, though not to be overlooked, is but a small part of the mischief in the catalogue of offences, and I much doubt whether the most public exposure of them will induce this Quaker party to confess and forsake their errors, as it is not usual or consistent with their notions of order or discipline to alter a course once entered upon, however unjust it may be to individuals. In short, they *affect a species of infallibility, in principle as odious and oppressive as that of Rome itself,—while it has not the same prestige of antiquity and consistency.*

I remain, etc.

G. D.



## LETTER VII.

---

"It is in vain  
(I see) to argue 'gainst the grain ;  
For when disputes are weary'd out,  
"T is interest still resolves the doubt."

"Simplicity and sincerity are the grand arcana of human life."

---

DEAR SIR,

It is really an irksome, I had almost said a sickening task, to be necessarily occupied in tracing out, and exposing the obliquities, tergiversations, and endless evasions or equivocations of some uncandid and unreasonable persons, who with high professions of disinterestedness, and purity of morals in private life—yet by their public acts and conduct, evince a character very much at variance with either of these. Still, however irksome and distressful it may be to the feelings of a rightly constituted mind, there are undoubtedly occasions when a decidedly upright and straightforward course must be taken with such persons, in order to develope, and as much as possible counteract, the injurious effects of their proceedings: a surgeon would but ill perform his task, if he neglected first to probe the wound he purposed to heal; or the husbandman who, having put his hand to the plough, looks back, loiters, or desists from his work, can hardly expect to bring anything to perfection. Such indecision, I believe, you, who have intimately known me for many years, will not readily allow to appertain to my character: whatever other faults I may have (and none are without them), certainly fickleness and inconstancy are not the prominent ones, still less duplicity, prevarication, or deceit. I think we have learned from the highest authority

that a "double-minded man is unstable in all his ways," and on this ground we may perhaps account for, though it cannot possibly excuse or justify, the vacillation and discreditable shuffling of my opponents, in this Scarborough Lancastrian School business—which I will still further endeavour to demonstrate to your satisfaction, I trust, in the continued prosecution of these Letters.

I should hope, ere this, you will have observed with approbation, that on my part I have evinced and maintained a steady equanimity of temper, and great forbearance under multiplied and aggravated provocations, not alone from one or two prominent individuals, but from many subsidiary and subordinate officials—and of this I have shewn abundant proofs in the "History and Mystery," etc. throughout, and shall still have occasion to exhibit others hereafter following. "The History and Mystery," indeed, contains within itself every needful document and statement of *facts* upon which to form a just apprehension of the case, and which has hitherto remained without an answer; nevertheless the secret machinations, or more open opposition of my Quaker foes, make these additional Letters very proper, and even necessary, as illustrative of their spirit of suspicious moderation, and assumed moral tone, which will be more evident if you carefully attend to the official correspondence which passed between me and Mr. Treasurer Stickney towards the end of the year 1841, in the expectation that at this time the usual Annual Meeting of the Lancastrian School Society would have been then shortly held at the Town Hall. However, owing to some concealed cause, but supposed to have arisen chiefly from the unsatisfactory state of the boys' school under one or two masters, who had previously held their office for short periods, but did not choose to stay over the General Meeting, the said meeting was postponed until a new master could be had from the Normal School in London. It is gratifying here to observe that the *girls'* school has been long conducted in the most efficient and useful manner, under a very competent matron, and with the con-

and proper to add  
upon the subject of certa  
errors which appeared on the face of  
accounts, in December 1810, and in many prece  
and remonstrating against them and similar inconsis  
which concerned myself, and required correction, unde  
cognizance of the President, and with the concurrence of  
Committee. It will be now right to give you a copy of  
letter addressed to him in his official character, and vi  
merely required a civil acknowledgment, either admitting  
refusing the desired satisfaction—or, after taking the instr  
tions of the Committee previously upon it, to signify the sam  
to me in due course.

“Mr. ISAAC STICKNEY,  
“Treasurer of the Lancasterian Schools, etc.

“Scarborough, 16 December, 1841.

“SIR,

“In pursuance of my letter of protest, addressed to  
Dr. Murray, the President of the above Schools, dated 25th of  
January last,\* and in accordance with the views and wishes of  
several respected friends, I take this opportunity—after the  
termination of the General and Municipal elections—and as  
the year is fast approaching to its close, to ask from you, as  
Treasurer of the Institution, some explanation of the grounds  
and motives upon which you thought fit to insert my name in  
the List of Subscriptions ‘*paid or allowed*,’ at the credit side of

\* This letter, and the President’s answer to it, will be given hereafter.

prevented my forwarding an earlier reply  
of 15th instant.

Understand the case, the plain 'History' of  
the alludes, without any 'Mystery' or

18. each towards the purchase of  
occupied as the Scarborough  
of either receiving interest  
recommending children to  
as I conceive, incontrovertible.  
"These several entries appear to me  
based on false assumptions and erroneous  
calculated to deceive many, by open  
ingenious device, to obscure and conceal the  
and justice, and can never be unresistingly  
part, or meet the approval of honest and candid  
any class or denomination, and still less so of your  
you know I never countenanced or connived at a  
which I consider clandestine and unwarranted, nor at any  
misapplication of my individual interests or those of others  
having, as you are aware, an unsatisfied claim upon the  
Institution for my original advance of money in 1813, with  
accruing interest thereon since the last direct payment of it to  
me in 1815, together with incidental charges and expenses  
arising out of the necessary exemplification and proof of such  
claim, as I have distinctly set forth in my aforesaid 'History,'  
published in November last year; not having at any time  
compromised my rightful claim by the acceptance of any  
proffered 'option' of sending children to the Schools 'in lieu  
of interest,' and although the number has been lately increased  
from two to three, yet if it were even enlarged still more,  
would be no inducement with me, as opposed to the principle  
of injustice attempted to be practised on myself and others.

"I therefore give you this formal notice, in addition to my  
protest to Dr. Murray, in order that the same irregularity may  
not appear in your next annual accounts, but withdrawing my  
name as a *subscriber*, and otherwise rectifying your account

tinual supervision and care of a Ladies' Committee; but the *boys'* school had on various accounts fallen into sad disorder, and consequent disrepute, and required material improvement, under the discipline and experience of a vigilant and well qualified master, and such it is hoped and believed may now have been, at last, obtained.

Now, in the prospect of such General Meeting, I considered it essentially right and proper to address a letter to Mr. Treasurer Stickney upon the subject of certain irregularities and manifest errors which appeared on the face of his statement of accounts, in December 1840, and in many preceding ones, and remonstrating against them and similar inconsistencies which concerned myself, and required correction, under the cognizance of the President, and with the concurrence of the Committee. It will be now right to give you a copy of my letter addressed to him in his official character, and which merely required a civil acknowledgment, either admitting or refusing the desired satisfaction—or, after taking the instructions of the Committee previously upon it, to signify the same to me in due course.

“MR. ISAAC STICKNEY,

“Treasurer of the Lancasterian Schools, etc.

“Scarborough, 16 December, 1841.

“SIR,

“In pursuance of my letter of protest, addressed to Dr. Murray, the President of the above Schools, dated 25th of January last,\* and in accordance with the views and wishes of several respected friends, I take this opportunity—after the termination of the General and Municipal elections—and as the year is fast approaching to its close, to ask from you, as Treasurer of the Institution, some explanation of the grounds and motives upon which you thought fit to insert my name in the List of Subscriptions ‘*paid or allowed,*’ at the credit side of

\* This letter, and the President's answer to it, will be given hereafter.

the last year's account, whereas you are well aware I was *not* a Subscriber, and that the same never was '*paid or allowed*' by me—at the same time charging on the debit side the '*interest due*' for one year on the *principal sum*, advanced and paid by me agreeable to the 'Resolution of a General Meeting, holden the 19th of February 1813, Mr. *John Rowntree* in the chair,' as quoted and referred to in my '*History and Mystery of the Schools*,' pp. 100, 103, and which still remains uncontroverted, and as I conceive, incontrovertible.

"These several entries appear to myself and others to proceed on false assumptions and erroneous statements of facts, really calculated to deceive many, by operating as a sort of ingenious device, to obscure and conceal the claims of truth and justice, and can never be unresistingly admitted on my part, or meet the approval of honest and candid persons of any class or denomination, and still less so of yours; in fact, you know I never countenanced or connived at a procedure which I consider clandestine and unwarranted, nor at such a misapplication of my individual interests or those of others; having, as you are aware, an unsatisfied claim upon the Institution for my original advance of money in 1813, with accruing interest thereon since the last direct payment of it to me in 1815, together with incidental charges and expenses arising out of the necessary exemplification and proof of such claim, as I have distinctly set forth in my aforesaid '*History*,' published in November last year; not having at any time compromised my rightful claim by the acceptance of any proffered '*option*' of sending children to the Schools '*in lieu of interest*,' and although the number has been lately increased from two to three, yet if it were even enlarged still more, would be no inducement with me, as opposed to the principle of injustice attempted to be practised on myself and others.

"I therefore give you this formal notice, in addition to my protest to Dr. Murray, in order that the same irregularity may not appear in your next annual accounts, but withdrawing my name as a *subscriber*, and otherwise rectifying your account

current, so as to correspond with truth and equity, in order to prevent additional trouble on this head to all parties.

"I request your early reply for my government; and am,

"Sir, yours faithfully,

"GEORGE DAVIES."

Now, my dear Sir, observe, I pray you, the effect of this business-like Letter upon the meek and courteous temper of this high-minded belligerent Quaker Treasurer; knowing, as he did, that every assertion made in my Letter was strictly true and well supported by facts, and yet prodigiously indignant at meeting with so correct and cutting an exposure of his clever performances,—I say *his*, because it does not appear that he submissively applied for instructions from the Committee, and grounded his Letter thereupon; but, elated with official self-complacency, as the irresponsible agent in this affair, and the Treasurer's accounts not being attested by, or even submitted to any *special auditors* (as is universally the case elsewhere), he naturally felt some mortification and displeasure at the receipt of so unexpected a rebuke, and therefore took good care to "shape his language" accordingly, professedly originating with himself, but no doubt acting in concert with Mr. Vice-President Rowntree, and the virtual Secretary, William Rowntree, with perhaps two or three other Quakers, and based altogether on their own predetermined notions, much-vaunted "Resolution," and unfounded affirmations, known and proved to be such, yet again repeated and re-asserted with the same bold unblushing assurance and confident self-importance, as if they really could prove them to be true, whereas they well know they have been again and again proved to be otherwise.

The following is a correct copy of Mr. Treasurer Stickney's Letter, in reply to the foregoing; viz.—[The numbers attached to each paragraph, refer to the comments and remarks which will be given to every article of it in future Letters].

1. "Although 'the elections' are happily over, many pressing

engagements have prevented my forwarding an earlier reply to G. Davies's Letter of 15th instant.

2. "As far as I understand the case, the plain 'History' of the transaction to which he alludes, without any 'Mystery' or mystification, is this:—

3. "The parties who paid 18*l.* each towards the purchase of the buildings and premises occupied as the Scarborough Lancasterian Schools, had the option of either receiving interest for their money, or the privilege of recommending children to the Schools in lieu of it.

4. "George Davies and I think all the other shareholders chose the latter; and for a number of years *he* exercised this privilege of sending children, in virtue of the right first chosen and then claimed by him.

5. "By what rule, therefore, of equity, he now claims interest for his money from the year 1813, *in addition* to the education of the children thus recommended, or what right he has *now* to turn round and say 'I have changed my mind; I will no longer send children; give me my money;' I am quite at a loss to imagine. It does indeed seem strange to me, that a man of his prudence and business habits, supposing such a claim to be well founded, should let it lay dormant for twenty years! and I am sure it would betray an irregularity and neglect of his pecuniary interests, which none of those who know him will ever suspect him of.

6. "To proceed, however, to the principal business in hand:—When I have next to make out a statement, I may *possibly* put it into a different form, although I have no hope of pleasing G. Davies in the matter; and if anything would have prevented my doing it, it would be the threat which his Letter contains; for as I trust no promise or persuasion would induce me to publish anything which did not 'correspond with truth and equity,' on the other hand, no threat of legal proceedings on his part, will ever induce me to swerve from what I believe to be right.

7. "Granting for a moment that the Committee and a large



current, so as to correspond with truth and equity, in order to prevent additional trouble on this head to all parties.

"I request your early reply for my government; and am,

"Sir, yours faithfully,

"GEORGE DAVIES."

Now, my dear Sir, observe, I pray you, the effect of this business-like Letter upon the meek and courteous temper of this high-minded belligerent Quaker Treasurer; knowing, as he did, that every assertion made in my Letter was strictly true and well supported by facts, and yet prodigiously indignant at meeting with so correct and cutting an exposure of his clever performances,—I say *his*, because it does not appear that he submissively applied for instructions from the Committee, and grounded his Letter thereupon; but, elated with official self-complacency, as the irresponsible agent in this affair, and the Treasurer's accounts not being attested by, or even submitted to any *special auditors* (as is universally the case elsewhere), he naturally felt some mortification and displeasure at the receipt of so unexpected a rebuke, and therefore took good care to "shape his language" accordingly, professedly originating with himself, but no doubt acting in concert with Mr. Vice-President Rowntree, and the virtual Secretary, William Rowntree, with perhaps two or three other Quakers, and based altogether on their own predetermined notions, much-vaunted "Resolution," and unfounded affirmations, known and proved to be such, yet again repeated and re-asserted with the same bold unblushing assurance and confident self-importance, as if they really could prove them to be true, whereas they well know they have been again and again proved to be otherwise.

The following is a correct copy of Mr. Treasurer Stickney's Letter, in reply to the foregoing; viz.—[The numbers attached to each paragraph, refer to the comments and remarks which will be given to every article of it in future Letters].

1. "Although 'the elections' are happily over, many pressing

engagements have prevented my forwarding an earlier reply to G. Davies's Letter of 15th instant.

2. "As far as I understand the case, the plain 'History' of the transaction to which he alludes, without any 'Mystery' or mystification, is this:—

3. "The parties who paid 18*l.* each towards the purchase of the buildings and premises occupied as the Scarborough Lancasterian Schools, had the option of either receiving interest for their money, or the privilege of recommending children to the Schools in lieu of it.

4. "George Davies and I think all the other shareholders chose the latter; and for a number of years *he* exercised this privilege of sending children, in virtue of the right first chosen and then claimed by him.

5. "By what rule, therefore, of equity, he now claims interest for his money from the year 1813, *in addition* to the education of the children thus recommended, or what right he has *now* to turn round and say 'I have changed my mind; I will no longer send children; give me my money;' I am quite at a loss to imagine. It does indeed seem strange to me, that a man of his prudence and business habits, supposing such a claim to be well founded, should let it lay dormant for twenty years! and I am sure it would betray an irregularity and neglect of his pecuniary interests, which none of those who know him will ever suspect him of.

6. "To proceed, however, to the principal business in hand:—When I have next to make out a statement, I may *possibly* put it into a different form, although I have no hope of pleasing G. Davies in the matter; and if anything would have prevented my doing it, it would be the threat which his Letter contains; for as I trust no promise or persuasion would induce me to publish anything which did not 'correspond with truth and equity,' on the other hand, no threat of legal proceedings on his part, will ever induce me to swerve from what I believe to be right.

7. "Granting for a moment that the Committee and a large

and open meeting of Subscribers and others, were *all* of them mistaken, and that he and his 'respected friends' are right, (but who those respected friends are, and in what *terra incognita* they may dwell, I cannot tell; but I have never yet had the pleasure of meeting with one of them).

8. "I would submit to him whether this 'seizing by the throat,' with a 'pay me what thou owest,'\* particularly when addressed to those who conscientiously believe they owe him nothing, becomes an aged Christian professor like himself—or his conduct on this and many other subjects.

9. "Which has often strongly reminded me of a character in the age of the Commonwealth, of whom a waggish writer says, 'If left alone in the world, John would have fallen out with Lilburne, and Lilburne with John.'

"I remain his friend and well-wisher,

"ISAAC STICKNEY.

"West Mount, 12, 28—41.

"G. Davies."

\* See Matthew xviii. 21—35, which I would strongly recommend to G. Davies's attentive and serious perusal, particularly the last verse.

Upon this curious and characteristic Letter, I must reserve further remark till my next.

I am, dear Sir, yours, etc.,

G. D.

## LETTER VIII.

---

“Be cautious of those who in manner affect the innocency of the dove, whilst in conduct they display the cunning of the serpent; strip off the borrowed plumes, that they may no longer deceive themselves or others.”

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DEAR SIR,

You may easily judge, from the tone and character of Mr. Quaker Treasurer's semi-official Letter, that its main object was to provoke an angry reply, which would have been gladly seized upon as a handle for further impertinence. But upon reflection I felt satisfied that if I immediately answered it according to its folly, I should not only have failed in convincing the writer of his error, and curing him of his self-conceit,—for as the poet justly remarks,

“A man convinced against his will,  
Is of the same opinion still;”

but in the vain attempt might have exposed myself to fresh attacks, and renewed provocation.

There is a description of persons, to whom certain Quakers are hardly to be esteemed exceptions, who are always watching to take advantage of any intemperate or indiscreet language, which they nevertheless take *quietly* no small pains to excite in those opposed to them, as a *matter of policy*, either directly or by their emissaries and agents. They profess, indeed, great tenderness of conscience, and scruple to do any bodily harm to the persons of those whom they bitterly dislike, and desire to persecute; but they are not equally regardful of the good name and fair reputation of such (unless they happen

collect from my books the following *facts*, which give indubitable proof of the exact regularity with which I conducted this small affair, in the same precise order as I would always wish to observe in more important concerns. Immediately after the date of the Resolution of 19th, published 24th of February 1813, having previously agreed to advance 18*l.* on the terms and principle stated therein, to be paid *interest at my option* (not at *theirs*, as I have already stated), until its repayment should take place in whole or in part, and having also offered to pay the money to Mr. Rowntree, the treasurer, then, or whenever he chose to receive it,—I set aside from any other cash, and sealed up, the said 18*l.*, expecting it might be called for any day. However, shortly after, having been called up to London on private affairs, I left out the packet so sealed on Wednesday the 7th April, 1813, with proper directions about it. On that very day the late Rev. Mr. Bottomley favoured us with a pastoral visit, and upon parting he gave me a 5*l.* Bank-note and a letter for a mutual friend in London, both which circumstances were briefly noted down at the time with other matters, so that there can be no doubt whatever about them;—it should be here observed that I had frequently offered to pay the money so agreed to be advanced, but Mr. Rowntree always declined or put off receiving it, by saying that there was one of the original proprietary shareholders (Mr. Thomas Tindall) who could not be persuaded to come into the terms proposed by and agreed upon with the others, and that as it was thought I had some acquaintance with him, it was particularly wished that I should use my best influence to induce him to accept the 18*l.* same as the others, and with additional interest, as he was very unwilling to be so considerable a loser, and would not sign the Deeds of Conveyance until he was satisfied. This refusal on his part caused some delay in the settlement with others, as the Deeds of Lease and Release bear date the 12th and 13th days of July, and the “Resolution” was passed on the 19th, and published 24th February same year.

When I returned to Scarborough on the 7th of August following, I found matters in this unsettled state, and although the other proprietors had signed the Deeds, except Mr. Thomas Tindall, and Mr. Wellborn Keatley (which *last* being absent, could not be a party to it), and no one could induce the *former* of these to agree to the terms offered, and in consequence his name had been left out of the *general* attestation to the signatures of others, by the professional agents employed on the occasion—and the said Deeds were placed in my hands, and I was to endeavour to prevail with Mr. Thomas Tindall to accede to the general arrangement, and to sign them, with instructions that I should thereupon fill up on the back of the Deed the customary attestation, and get one of my servants to witness the signing and executing in due form; accordingly I took the earliest opportunity of conversing calmly with Mr. Tindall on the subject, and recommended his receiving from Mr. Rowntree his quota of *interest*, due for two and half years (3*l.* 15*s.*), as several others had done, and that I would pay him the 18*l.* without further trouble or delay; and with much persuasion he at length took my advice; as I find by a particular entry in my pocket-book of the 9th of August 1813, that both he and Mrs. Tindall called at my house, and having arranged the matter with him, I summoned my man servant John Wilkinson, and opening the packet which had been sealed up since February preceding, I paid Mr. Tindall the 18*l.* which it contained, and wrote on the back of the Deed with my own hand the requisite attestations, as I had been instructed to do. Mr. Tindall executed the Deed; and the same was witnessed by the said John Wilkinson as “Signed, Sealed, and Delivered” in his presence. This I may assure you, dear Sir, is a correct and perfect account of the whole transaction, and *I must request your very particular attention* to it, because before I shall have entirely finished these Letters, you will see how *necessary it is to be kept in view*, for the detecting and defeating the unfounded and unworthy attempts which have been made to mislead, in misrepresenting

this matter, by certain parties whose names and proceedings will hereafter appear. Mr. Thomas Tindall, after this, removed to Hull, and was drowned in the Humber, many years ago. John Wilkinson lived two or three years in my service, and is also dead, but the receipts for his wages can be produced at any time to verify his handwriting.

Upon a brief analysis of this Loan account with the Committee of Managers, its particulars will be found as follows: viz.

*Lancasterian School Committee Scarborough.*

Dr.	£.	s.	d.
1813, February 24. To cash advanced on Loan, per agreement, and published resolution of this date	18	0	0
1814, February 24. To interest one year, to this day . . . . .	0	18	0
1815, February 24. To interest do. do. . . . .	0	18	0
	<u>£.</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>16 0</u>

*Per Contra.*

	Cr.	£.	s.	d.
1814, February. By cash received, one year's interest on 18l. Loan from Mr. Rowntree to 24th inst. . . . .	0	18	0	
1815, February. By do. do. due 24th inst. . . . .	0	18	0	
		<u>1</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>0</u>
Balance due amount of Loan.		18	0	0
		<u>£.</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>16 0</u>

	£.	s.	d.
To this Balance, brought down . . . . .	18	0	0
Add 27 year's interest, from February 1815, to February 1842, at 18s. per annum . . . . .	24	6	0
	<u>£.</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>6 0</u>

due to G. D. Exclusive of other unavoidable expenses to some amount, which the transaction entailed on me.

From hence you may clearly perceive the mischief which even in a pecuniary point of view these vexatious doings have produced and perpetuated: which the President, Dr. Murray, in one of his Letters (*vide* History and Mystery, p. 37), supposes in his bland and charitable way, to have arisen from some "*cross reading*." If so, it is a "*cross reading*" entirely with him and his party, as any one not blinded by prejudice, or something worse, may easily discover for himself. After all, the money amount, though not to be overlooked, is but a small part of the mischief in the catalogue of offences, and I much doubt whether the most public exposure of them will induce this Quaker party to confess and forsake their errors, as it is not usual or consistent with their notions of order or discipline to alter a course once entered upon, however unjust it may be to individuals. In short, they *affect a species of infallibility, in principle as odious and oppressive as that of Rome itself,—while it has not the same prestige of antiquity and consistency.*

I remain, etc.

G. D.



## LETTER VII.

---

"It is in vain  
(I see) to argue 'gainst the grain ;  
For when disputes are weary'd out,  
'Tis interest still resolves the doubt."

"Simplicity and sincerity are the grand arcana of human life."

---

DEAR SIR,

IT is really an irksome, I had almost said a sickening task, to be necessarily occupied in tracing out, and exposing the obliquities, tergiversations, and endless evasions or equivocations of some uncandid and unreasonable persons, who with high professions of disinterestedness, and purity of morals in private life—yet by their public acts and conduct, evince a character very much at variance with either of these. Still, however irksome and distressful it may be to the feelings of a rightly constituted mind, there are undoubtedly occasions when a decidedly upright and straightforward course must be taken with such persons, in order to develope, and as much as possible counteract, the injurious effects of their proceedings: a surgeon would but ill perform his task, if he neglected first to probe the wound he purposed to heal; or the husbandman who, having put his hand to the plough, looks back, loiters, or desists from his work, can hardly expect to bring anything to perfection. Such indecision, I believe, you, who have intimately known me for many years, will not readily allow to appertain to my character: whatever other faults I may have (and none are without them), certainly fickleness and inconstancy are not the prominent ones, still less duplicity, prevarication, or deceit. I think we have learned from the highest authority

that a "double-minded man is unstable in all his ways," and on this ground we may perhaps account for, though it cannot possibly excuse or justify, the vacillation and discreditable shuffling of my opponents, in this Scarborough Lancasterian School business—which I will still further endeavour to demonstrate to your satisfaction, I trust, in the continued prosecution of these Letters.

I should hope, ere this, you will have observed with approbation, that on my part I have evinced and maintained a steady equanimity of temper, and great forbearance under multiplied and aggravated provocations, not alone from one or two prominent individuals, but from many subsidiary and subordinate officials—and of this I have shewn abundant proofs in the "History and Mystery," etc. throughout, and shall still have occasion to exhibit others hereafter following. "The History and Mystery," indeed, contains within itself every needful document and statement of *facts* upon which to form a just apprehension of the case, and which has hitherto remained without an answer; nevertheless the secret machinations, or more open opposition of my Quaker foes, make these additional Letters very proper, and even necessary, as illustrative of their spirit of suspicious moderation, and assumed moral tone, which will be more evident if you carefully attend to the official correspondence which passed between me and Mr. Treasurer Stickney towards the end of the year 1841, in the expectation that at this time the usual Annual Meeting of the Lancasterian School Society would have been then shortly held at the Town Hall. However, owing to some concealed cause, but supposed to have arisen chiefly from the unsatisfactory state of the boys' school under one or two masters, who had previously held their office for short periods, but did not choose to stay over the General Meeting, the said meeting was postponed until a new master could be had from the Normal School in London. It is gratifying here to observe that the *girls'* school has been long conducted in the most efficient and useful manner, under a very competent matron, and with the con-

tinual supervision and care of a Ladies' Committee; but the boys' school had on various accounts fallen into sad disorder, and consequent disrepute, and required material improvement, under the discipline and experience of a vigilant and well qualified master, and such it is hoped and believed may now have been, at last, obtained.

Now, in the prospect of such General Meeting, I considered it essentially right and proper to address a letter to Mr. Treasurer Stickney upon the subject of certain irregularities and manifest errors which appeared on the face of his statement of accounts, in December 1840, and in many preceding ones, and remonstrating against them and similar inconsistencies which concerned myself, and required correction, under the cognizance of the President, and with the concurrence of the Committee. It will be now right to give you a copy of my letter addressed to him in his official character, and which merely required a civil acknowledgment, either admitting or refusing the desired satisfaction—or, after taking the instructions of the Committee previously upon it, to signify the same to me in due course.

“Mr. ISAAC STICKNEY,  
“Treasurer of the Lancastrian Schools, etc.

“Scarborough, 16 December, 1841.

“SIR,

“In pursuance of my letter of protest, addressed to Dr. Murray, the President of the above Schools, dated 25th of January last,\* and in accordance with the views and wishes of several respected friends, I take this opportunity—after the termination of the General and Municipal elections—and as the year is fast approaching to its close, to ask from you, as Treasurer of the Institution, some explanation of the grounds and motives upon which you thought fit to insert my name in the List of Subscriptions ‘*paid or allowed*,’ at the credit side of

\* This letter, and the President's answer to it, will be given hereafter.

the last year's account, whereas you are well aware I was *not* a Subscriber, and that the same never was '*paid or allowed*' by me—at the same time charging on the debit side the '*interest due*' for one year on the *principal sum*, advanced and paid by me agreeable to the 'Resolution of a General Meeting, holden the 19th of February 1813, Mr. *John Rowntree* in the chair,' as quoted and referred to in my '*History and Mystery of the Schools*,' pp. 100, 103, and which still remains uncontroverted, and as I conceive, incontrovertible.

"These several entries appear to myself and others to proceed on false assumptions and erroneous statements of facts, really calculated to deceive many, by operating as a sort of ingenious device, to obscure and conceal the claims of truth and justice, and can never be unresistingly admitted on my part, or meet the approval of honest and candid persons of any class or denomination, and still less so of yours; in fact, you know I never countenanced or connived at a procedure which I consider clandestine and unwarranted, nor at such a misapplication of my individual interests or those of others; having, as you are aware, an unsatisfied claim upon the Institution for my original advance of money in 1813, with accruing interest thereon since the last direct payment of it to me in 1815, together with incidental charges and expenses arising out of the necessary exemplification and proof of such claim, as I have distinctly set forth in my aforesaid '*History*,' published in November last year; not having at any time compromised my rightful claim by the acceptance of any proffered '*option*' of sending children to the Schools '*in lieu of interest*,' and although the number has been lately increased from two to three, yet if it were even enlarged still more, would be no inducement with me, as opposed to the principle of injustice attempted to be practised on myself and others.

"I therefore give you this formal notice, in addition to my protest to Dr. Murray, in order that the same irregularity may not appear in your next annual accounts, but withdrawing my name as a *subscriber*, and otherwise rectifying your account

current, so as to correspond with truth and equity, in order to prevent additional trouble on this head to all parties.

"I request your early reply for my government; and am,

"Sir, yours faithfully,

"GEORGE DAVIES."

Now, my dear Sir, observe, I pray you, the effect of this business-like Letter upon the meek and courteous temper of this high-minded belligerent Quaker Treasurer; knowing, as he did, that every assertion made in my Letter was strictly true and well supported by facts, and yet prodigiously indignant at meeting with so correct and cutting an exposure of his clever performances,—I say *his*, because it does not appear that he submissively applied for instructions from the Committee, and grounded his Letter thereupon; but, elated with official self-complacency, as the irresponsible agent in this affair, and the Treasurer's accounts not being attested by, or even submitted to any *special auditors* (as is universally the case elsewhere), he naturally felt some mortification and displeasure at the receipt of so unexpected a rebuke, and therefore took good care to "shape his language" accordingly, professedly originating with himself, but no doubt acting in concert with Mr. Vice-President Rowntree, and the virtual Secretary, William Rowntree, with perhaps two or three other Quakers, and based altogether on their own predetermined notions, much-vaunted "Resolution," and unfounded affirmations, known and proved to be such, yet again repeated and re-asserted with the same bold unblushing assurance and confident self-importance, as if they really could prove them to be true, whereas they well know they have been again and again proved to be otherwise.

The following is a correct copy of Mr. Treasurer Stickney's Letter, in reply to the foregoing; viz.—[The numbers attached to each paragraph, refer to the comments and remarks which will be given to every article of it in future Letters].

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engagements have prevented my forwarding an earlier reply to G. Davies's Letter of 15th instant.

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"West Mount, 12, 28—41.

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## LETTER VIII.

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DEAR SIR,

You may easily judge, from the tone and character of Mr. Quaker Treasurer's semi-official Letter, that its main object was to provoke an angry reply, which would have been gladly seized upon as a handle for further impertinence. But upon reflection I felt satisfied that if I immediately answered it according to its folly, I should not only have failed in convincing the writer of his error, and curing him of his self-conceit,—for as the poet justly remarks,

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to belong to their particular Society or immediate connexion) as may have inadvertently, perhaps innocently, given them offence. They may not indeed hurt or hunt them down as *mad dogs*, but they only throw out a significant "*Beware of him!*"

Upon the whole therefore I thought it best to disappoint our Scarborough Quaker Treasurer, and those of his *kidney*, by waiting awhile, in order to see what might further transpire either before or at the expected General Annual Meeting in December last (1841), which I since find has been unusually procrastinated by the want of a proper master to fill the place of others who had successively left the School rather abruptly, and, as I suspect, not without evident dissatisfaction on their parts.

Now, upon a dispassionate review of Mr. Treasurer's doughty Letter, I think I cannot dispose of it better than by taking it to pieces, and answering it, paragraph by paragraph; and as it may save trouble, I need only refer to the marginal numbers affixed to each paragraph of the Letter, and then reply to them *categorically*, as was before observed in the case of the famous "Resolution" which the zealous Quaker Secretary, W. Rowntree, had some time ago wished to palm upon me and the public, and a full account of which you may find inserted in "The History and Mystery," &c., pp. 9 to 14.

1. "Although the Elections are happily over," etc.

Here be pleased to observe the abrupt and discourteous opening of this singular epistle. "The FRIENDS," you know, are concise, but very correct in their expressions of civility, and equally exact in the observance of them. I have long had, and still have, the honour and happiness of corresponding with some of the most distinguished members of the FRIENDS SOCIETY in divers places, and have in every instance, I believe, been addressed as "*Esteemed Friend*," or "*Respected Friend*;" but our Scarborough Quaker Treasurer, you find, uses these terms only on certain occasions and with certain persons, just as he may happen to like or dislike, or as it may chance to suit his own petty purposes. "*The Elections are*

*happily over.*" Yes, as regards the *municipal* ones; the return of their Chief Magistrate for a second year, and the re-election of a few Quaker Members as Town Councillors, might warrant the writer to say this. But with respect to the important issue of the *General Election*, and the disappointed hopes of their favourite Candidate, I must confess this appears to me one of the most heartless and ungrateful affronts that could possibly be offered to the honourable and gallant officer, who, at their express invitation, and with their assurance of effectual support, ventured to put himself in their hands, and found, when too late, that they could not carry him through the trying contest successfully.

2. "As far as I understand the case," etc.

How obscure the slippery, sliding foundation of the wary Treasurer's further remarks! This introduction and the inferences drawn from it, afford a fair specimen of the peculiar art of "*shaping their language*," to which I have alluded,—it *proves* nothing, because it *asserts* nothing; but with certain superficial, weak-minded persons, it has a temporary effect, which is all they intend or care about. "*As far as I understand*," that is enough for their present purpose; but as to any authorities or proofs, or any exhibition of "original documents," which had been so long ago pompously promised—and confidently appealed to as in their possession, they are now quite *dumbfounded*; they are still kept back, and cannot be found; and instead of these, we are invited and expected to take the bare word, or bold assumptions of this crafty Quaker Treasurer, and to accept of them all as undoubted *facts*, "true as Holy Writ," only because "as far as he understands the case," it is so and so; and this with as much *sang froid* as if each and all of his assumed and untenable positions had not been already anticipated, and refuted upon the clearest evidence in the "History and Mystery" of these Schools; nothing of which, however, will he condescend to notice, much less attempt to answer; but in lieu of it, obtrudes his own vain and presumptuous opinions and unfounded assertions, and

preposterously (yet not inconsistently with his slippery projects) demands their *previous admission*, truly! as the basis of his sliding, unstable hypothesis; well knowing at the same time, that if his premises are unfounded in *fact*, his conclusions must necessarily involve him, and all who put any confidence in him, in a labyrinth of errors, absurdities and injustice. Why else conceal the plain fact, that the Lancasterian School buildings have been from the very first designed and dedicated to the *public as their property*, and *not* that of *private* individuals or adventurers, or of any imaginary, non-existent Company of *Shareholders*; and assuredly not of such as, having in due form been appointed *Trustees*, and executed and published a special Deed of Declaration of such Trusts, and which still exists in the hands of Mr. (V. P.) John Rowntree, the colleague and brother Friend of this same Quaker Treasurer, I. Stickney, not one word of which is, however, mentioned or referred to in this letter, for reasons sufficiently obvious to make further remark needless. *Vide* "History and Mystery," pp. 100, 104.

3 "The parties who paid 18*l.* each towards the building, etc. had the option of either receiving interest for their money, or the privilege of recommending children to the schools in lieu of it," etc.

This is a tardy and forced admission of the undeniable fact, that this *option* was the inducement originally proposed and held out to the contributors for their choice, upon their advance of the money so indispensably necessary; now if you will please turn to the "History and Mystery," pp. 7, 8, you will there find the absurd "Resolution" promulgated by the virtual secretary, W. Rowntree, in which a doctrine directly opposed to the above is broached and maintained as the "Unanimous opinion of the Committee, after examination and consideration of the Original Documents relative to the Institution on its present footing, that *no expectation of money interest* was at that time held out," etc. But at p. 11, and also pp. 102, 3, of the "History and Mystery," (to which I am obliged to refer so often, and adhere to as a Text Book never yet con-

futed), you may see this last unqualified assertion is proved to be "*utterly groundless*," etc., and I may very safely leave the Committee and their Treasurer, to settle these variations and discrepancies between them as they best can. Furthermore, the pretended "Resolution" goes on to assert "that Mr. Davies, as well as others, invested their money entirely on charitable and benevolent grounds," etc. This assertion is in like manner fairly met, explained and refuted, at p. 11, and that so palpably and completely that there was no escape from the obvious conviction, that the whole tenor and scope of the said supposed "Resolution" was exactly as I have stated in the introductory address of the "History," etc. to the Mayor and Magistrates of the Borough of Scarborough, in which I aver that it originated with and was concocted "by a party of Friends in the Committee, acting very craftily but effectively upon the misinformation and feelings of others, and who with a plausible appearance of primitive purity of principle and practice, have nevertheless put forth, in their congregate (not corporate) capacity, what I submit will be found to be insidious aspersions, sophistical inconsistencies, and even positive untruths, affecting the character and interests of myself and others, which in their *individual* station, I am sure they would be afraid or ashamed to avow or repeat," etc. And now at length Mr. Treasurer Stickney comes forward in his *individual character* to make the seeming *amende honorable* for himself at least, but *not* as the acknowledged representative of the Committee, who passed the unfounded "Resolution," and who, in accordance with the usual etiquette of a Quaker assembly, can hardly ever be induced or expected to rescind or retract any thing they have once deliberately adopted or said; and in this his *isolated* condition, in effect *gives the lie to the public act of his company*, not without some feeling, it is to be hoped, of secret compunction or rather unwilling appearance of it, since it is more than likely, and is indeed generally believed now, to have been the production of and dictated and advised by himself, with the aid of Mr. (V. P.) Rowntree, and the virtual

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secretary W. Rowntree conjointly—and which they have since discovered is “*too bad*” to be believed. Yet it was at first given out as the supposed fabrication of FRIENDS at York or Pickering, upon an *ex parte* statement of the case by the Friends here, and which the frequent mention of the Quarterly Meetings held at those places, in the President Dr. Murray’s Letters, seemed for a while to countenance, but which I always considered a miserable calumny cast upon such meetings, and could never indeed bring myself to believe.

“The privilege of recommending children to the Schools,” etc. at the tail of this sentence, is an indefinite and mysterious mode of expression, which in the original settlement thereof was clearly and distinctly declared to be an *optional* right of presenting two children in lieu of interest—upon each 18<sup>l</sup>. lent and advanced (*vide* “History and Mystery,” p. 101); and therefore this renewed attempt at “*mystification*” by such means, but ill accords with the disavowal of it in the second paragraph of the Treasurer’s Letter under review. Yet the same terms are afterwards used, and with the same disingenuousness persisted in. I reserve all further remark until my next.

I remain, etc.

G. D.

## LETTER IX.

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"Never think of lying for the truth, or working the works of the Devil for God's sake;—there is no greater fallacy."

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DEAR SIR,

I will now continue the observations on Mr. Stickney's Letter, viz.

4. "George Davies, and I think all the other Shareholders, chose the latter, and for a number of years exercised this privilege of sending children in virtue of the right first chosen and then claimed by him."

Mark, I beseech you, the modest confidence and self-complacent consistency with which our ingenious Treasurer comes forward to shew his fidelity, and wonderful adherence to "*truth and equity*." He had just before made a clumsy effort to obtain some credit to himself by a *seeming* dissent from certain principles embodied in the *soi disant* Resolution of the Committee. In doing this he necessarily admits they (of course including himself) have given another and different version, and are therefore in such bad odour for consistency as to be generally discredited. But nothing daunted at this detection and self-condemnation, it seems to his morbid reasoning to afford greater latitude for speculation and romance, whereby the *gullibility* of his credulous admirers would be still further operated on; and therefore you must really make large allowance for what this same truth-loving Treasurer "*understands*," or chooses to adopt, as his view of the case, and upon the construction of this sentence, "George

Davies, and I think all the others," etc. There is nothing of doubt or uncertainty expressed or implied as to the *first*, and but little as to "*all the others*;" but to have reversed the phraseology would not have so well suited the keeping up of the delusion as to the asserted or presumed "*shareholdership*," or as to the qualified admission of the claim for *interest* on the money advanced; and so the ingenious Treasurer, having been implicated with the Committee in giving currency to what is palpably without ground, and having for *himself* (not as proxy for the Committee) disavowed and recanted it, by a strange species of logic, which I cannot comprehend, thinks and acts as if he ought on that account rather to be accredited in another series of monstrosities, upon no better principle than this, "*as I understand the case*," etc. Thus assuming and taking for granted much that he knows, or might have known, is so far from being the *fact*, that it is diametrically opposed to it; all which, I think, you will candidly admit has been sufficiently demonstrated in "The History and Mystery" at large, and especially in these Letters as a *sequel* thereof, and therefore it will be quite unnecessary to repeat it; at the same time you must coincide with me that it is "*too bad*" thus to act, after having just before recanted a similar practice, so far as regards the *option*, which was at first denied most stoutly and unreservedly; no such option being, as was said, "*held out as an inducement*;" and at length, when driven from that miserable subterfuge, can again betake himself to vague assumptions, without any shadow of proof, that "G. D. chose, and for a number of years exercised, this" (alleged) "privilege of sending children to the School, in virtue of the right first chosen and then claimed by him," etc., notwithstanding all my previous statements and proofs to the contrary, which have already been made public, to the satisfaction and conviction of every unprejudiced reader, as likewise by these consecutive Letters, particularly that No. VI., to which I beg to refer for all needful purposes. Nor does the casuistry even stop here; but

before he ventures to answer my inquiries or remarks upon his last year's accounts (1840), he takes the liberty to turn round upon me, and with a shew of singular simplicity and self-complacent confidence propounds to me the following characteristic and sagacious inquiry, or perhaps more strictly puts it to himself, from himself, as a pleasant episode to this fictitious and farcical mode of reasoning.

5. "By what rule, therefore, of equity, he now claims interest for his money from the year 1813, *in addition* to the education of the children thus recommended; or what right he has now to turn round and say, 'I have changed my mind, I will no longer send children to the School; give me my money,' I am quite at a loss to imagine," etc.

The word "*therefore*," in this connexion, is of considerable weight and importance; it just amounts to this, "you must first believe every word of my statement as perfectly true and correct. I will not condescend, I cannot stop to prove them to be so, but 'as far as I understand the case,' and just as I understand it, I call upon you and expect you to judge and decide upon it." Now all the material points this clever adroit Treasurer has merely *assumed* to be *facts*; but he has not, nor can he ever *prove* them to be such, consequently his reasoning and inquiries are altogether beside the mark, and to all of them my reply is brief, clear, and decided.—1. I only claim interest on the Loan since the last direct payment in 1815, *not* 1813, as *untruly assumed*.—2. I paid the *full* subscription prices of 1*l.* 1*s.* and 1*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*, for the admission of two and three children for the first three years; and when I left off subscribing, I, of course, left off sending children, and never availed myself of the *option* of sending children in lieu of *interest*, as *untruly assumed*.—3. I have ever been of one mind on this and every other subject grounded on the "Original Documents," connected with or relating to this School question; and I have now only to confirm what I have ever constantly and consistently maintained as *right*, from the beginning to this present time, without variation, equivocation,



or diminution of any kind, though I freely admit not without occasional cessations (but not for twenty years, as *untruly assumed*), under certain modifications and circumstances of a peculiar kind, involving personal or relative considerations which might then press upon me; and in the teeth of oft-repeated protestations of the poverty of the funds, subsequent denunciations of hostility from unlooked for quarters, and at length in total denial of the right either for *principal* or *interest*. Surely our ingenious Treasurer must have found out some "*new way of paying old debts*," and by this happy device hopes to be for ever relieved from them, and thus to abolish and obliterate all uneasy recollection of them from himself and those of his *clique*, simply because it is his and their will and pleasure it should be so, and only as he and they are pleased to "*understand the case*," being themselves collectively the parties complained of. This, if I mistake not, has long been the aim and determination (conformably to their aforesaid Resolution) not only of Mr. Treasurer Stickney, but also of another high official character, which I fear I shall be obliged more plainly to allude to before I shall have entirely finished these Letters.

In the meantime having demolished the whole of Mr. Treasurer's *assumed* premises herein, as also in a former Letter (No. VI.) as well as in the published "*History and Mystery*" aforesaid; and refuted the sophistries, and unfounded statements of Mr. Treasurer's "*understandings*," conjectures and opinions, and shewn their futile fallacies—it is quite superfluous to follow him in his tortuous course. He well knows, and so does Mr. Vice-President Rowntree, and their virtual Secretary of same name and family, that, as well by my Letters to Mr. H. Fowler, Rev. G. B. Kidd, and especially to Dr. Murray the President, as on all other occasions, I have constantly held and maintained my *right* to be paid both the Original Loan and the Interest due thereon; but as I said before, the excuse has till of late been *poverty*, and this may be quite consistent with their *policy*, and must ever be the case under such pitiful

management, and I rather think is a convenient apology or screen for some ulterior mischief. But surely if the Committee cannot afford to pay their just debts, they might at least put on some appearance of fair dealing, by the frank acknowledgment of the public debt on the Institution, under their direction and management, they being the only ostensible parties for raising the means of its liquidation, and so no doubt they would, were it the case of a chapel; but are truth and justice confined to matters "*quoad sacra*"? In all other Lancasterian Schools, and I have given two examples of considerable ones, viz. Spital-Fields and Tottenham (to which innumerable others might be added), such a fair and open course of proceeding is invariably observed; and even so late as last year, the Report of Tottenham Schools states the need of laying out 150*l.* in their improvement, and submits the following information concerning it, viz.—"The cost of this erection is estimated at about 150*l.*, and they trust that for the accomplishment of plans calculated to promote the efficiency of the Schools, the friends of popular instruction will not be backward in liberally supporting them." But on the contrary our *Scarborough Friends* seem rather inclined to pay off their public Debt in the base metal of personal provocation, mystification and rash assertion, than in the sterling coin of honest exertion, and sincere intention to do unto others as they would wish to be done unto, and without respect of persons—whether poor or rich.

Thus far, my dear Sir, we have only just reached the threshold of Mr. Treasurer Stickney's answer to my Letter of business addressed to him; we have hitherto merely examined the exordium or primary cogitations and lucubrations of the Quaker, "*as far as he understands the case*" generally. You will see and acknowledge with me that in all this he has only been going round the tree, and round the tree, and not touching the tree, perhaps from information received from his good friend V. P. Rowntree, and to all appearance determined to give away no chance of effecting his object. Verily if

honest *John Bunyan* had had to allegorise such characters, he would have been at no loss to designate them by their respective names.

But I forbear; and will next proceed to consider with some attention what the Treasurer is pleased to advance in reply to my distinct and pointed observations touching his yearly accounts—especially the last, of 1840—which my aforesaid business Letter had brought under his official notice. But this I must defer till my next.

I remain, etc.

G. D.

## LETTER X.

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"Facts and Figures are stubborn things; some persons seem to consider any thing done amiss in private, as nothing; their standard of Morality would appear to consist, not in avoiding Error, but in escaping discovery."

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DEAR SIR,

It is peculiarly noticeable, that in the demi-official Letter of the shrewd and wary Treasurer,—so well considered and so carefully compacted, he wanders, nevertheless, from his proper province into much discursive and irrelevant matter, of which he knows next to nothing, except by report of his friend and colleague V. P. Rowntree, and by which nothing is shewn more clearly, than their mutual inconsistency and incapacity for the difficult task they have undertaken, *i. e.* to prove that a *loan* of money to a body of Subscribers to a public institution, is not by any means cognizable or allowable by the Committee of such body, but may be indefinitely deferred, disputed, or denied, just as suits the temper, the interests, or the convenience of the dominant party in that Committee, and all this without any stain of reproach or shame attaching to them, either individually, or collectively.

This in few words is the drift, the sum and substance, of this Letter, which I shall hope to make appear to your satisfaction, ere I have done with it; in the meantime, I am thankful to Mr. Treasurer for this discovery and exemplification of the sentiments it contains, because it will help me to lay open their original scheme of concealment, mystification, and

delusion, in a more definite and tangible shape, and enable me to extend these researches still broader and deeper.

To this end, I now advance to the sixth division of this Letter: thus—

6. "To proceed however to the principal business in hand." What had gone before was, it seems, only an introductory or preliminary lecture, subsidiary merely to the main object, a pure work of supererogation; that which now follows relates to the "*principal business in hand*,"—that which as *Treasurer*, concerned himself *principally*;—viz. the examination and rectification of his *previous* erroneous statements and accounts, and the promise of alteration and amendment for the future. Now let us see how he proceeds in the matter. Does he consult the Committee, or submit himself to any public meeting for their sanction and approval? Does he plead the admission of his yearly accounts, by Auditors duly authorized and appointed by the body of Subscribers for that purpose? No such thing. He, and every one here knows, that his accounts have never been referred to such an ordeal, or attested by any Auditor during the long period of his *Treasurership*, nor, as far as I know and believe, those of others, from the very first Quaker Treasurer Rowntree, to the present time, embracing a term of thirty years! No doubt their individual character, as men of integrity in private life and in their general business transactions, might *at first*, seem to render such scrutiny needless; but I confidently affirm, that such long continued practice is altogether unwarranted, and without precedent in the history of *Public Institutions*. I refer to the "British and Foreign Bible Society," the different "Missionary Societies," and especially to the "British and Foreign School Society," as affording ample ground for my assertion; and further I may say, that it must be always acceptable to such public officers to have their accounts examined, revised and passed by such indifferent Auditors, as affording full satisfaction to all parties concerned. But you will please to observe, that our Treasurer very adroitly passes by all that was advanced in

my official Letter to him respecting his published accounts, without a single observation or remark, thus *tacitly* admitting their truth and justice; and still considering, and wishing me to consider the affair as a merely *personal*, not *public* matter; proceeds thus,—“when I have next to make out a statement, I may *possibly* put it into a different form.” This may perhaps account for a previous *taunt* in this Letter, of my “business habits,” as it is by these that I have been enabled to detect and expose his fallacies. It is however, you perceive, only a *possible* thing, nothing of *certainty* about it, he will not condescend to do right by *compulsion*, there appears no confession or conviction of untruth or injustice, or any indication of past errors or of future amendment. This, I suppose, would be considered *infra dig*. It might possibly lead others to suspect him of tergiversation, or something else too submissive. It might in some degree affect him in his immediate connexion here and elsewhere.

It is certainly very far from being an agreeable part of my duty to impute blame to, or inflict pain upon him, or any other public officer, by a deep and probing scrutiny of their conduct, and still less of their motives, or to subject them to the mortification which may arise from a complete and entire exposure of such conduct. I state *facts*—strong, incontestable, incontrovertible *facts*, and leave you to judge of their tendency and natural consequences, and I desire that no inferences may be drawn from them, other than such as those *facts*, and the “Original Documents,” may strictly justify and warrant.

The writer of the Letter then proceeds to foreshew his views, but in the same equivocal and mysterious manner, thus: “Although I have no hope of pleasing G. Davies in the matter, and if any thing would have prevented me doing it, it would be the threat which his Letter contains, for, as I trust, no promise or persuasion would induce me to publish any thing which did not ‘correspond with truth and equity;’ on the other hand, no threat of legal proceedings on his part, will ever induce me to swerve from what I believe to be right.”

He has no *hope*, because he has no sincere *intention* in the matter. It is well known that I never entered upon or threatened "*legal proceedings*," and the writer is not so weak as to believe that I would, by any thing he might say, be goaded into any such measures. He has no hope of *pleasing* me. Verily, I never expected or wished to be personally gratified by his adoption of my suggestions, I merely instanced some of the irregularities which had occurred, and were apparent to myself and others, and which by the bye, he never attempts to disprove or invalidate, except by a *sneering* quotation from my Letter, and a feigned and blustering allusion to some *asserted* "threat of legal proceedings," which he well knows I never contemplated, and which cannot be found in any part of my Letter, or in any part of my conduct from beginning to end. This pugnacious Treasurer's moral feeling is indeed of a curious kind, it deals in assertions without proof, and rises in wrath, when it should rise in argument; it fights with unhallowed weapons, and pleads the cause of what we must charitably suppose he believes to be truth, with the *tongue* nevertheless of misrepresentation and deceit. As Montesquieu observes in a similar case, "he is perpetually taking for granted the points in dispute, and as constantly substituting plausibilities for facts," making his own suppositions and fancied admissions stand in the place of arguments and proofs, and then on the faith of such a Babel-structure of false principles, drawing other suppositions, consequences, and false conclusions.

Here I may well suspend this unpleasant discussion of the sixth article of the Treasurer's Letter, and will proceed in my next to examine the remaining parts of it, containing, if possible, still more reprehensible and indefensible matter, than any thing which has preceded it.

I remain, etc.

G. D.

## LETTER XI.

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"What an absurdity it is to be dogmatical!  
We naturally recoil from opinions that are thrust down our throats!"

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DEAR SIR,

IF I could succeed in convincing myself that the affirmations of our Treasurer were verity and fact,—viz. That the official accounts of his Treasurership were the "*principal business in hand*,"—I might well be surprised at its quick dispatch in less than three lines of his Letter, as compared with the fifty or more of this prosy, inconclusive Epistle, which, with the able assistance, I guess, of V. P. Rowntree, he had drawn up on the occasion, to answer the purpose of misleading or preventing me from all further opposition to them or their subtle schemes, and as the readiest and least expensive mode they could hit upon. It could not, however, deceive me, knowing the sort of men I had to deal with; nor will it be likely to deceive others, who may not have had the same opportunity of knowing them as I have. As a general rule, it is much safer to judge of the *intentions* of men by their *actions* rather than their *professions*; and surely, if the matter of accounts was indeed the "*principal business in hand*," three evasive lines, or less, was but a slovenly notice of it; and all the other fifty, or more, quite a surplusage, and entirely irrelevant to this "*principal business*," must be considered rather a dexterous display of the inventive faculty of the writer.

In this temper and spirit, he ventures to give us another example of his logical skill and critical acumen, as follows:—



7. "Granting, for a moment, that the Committee and a large and open Meeting of the Subscribers and others were ALL of them mistaken," etc.

Observe, I pray you, the studied construction of this seemingly candid admission of the writer—only instead of "granting" read *supposing*; there is nothing in it real or substantial—it is purely hypothetical and visionary, being but "for a moment." What follows? "That the Committee and a large and open Meeting of the Subscribers and others were all of them mistaken." This is evidently an allusion to the Exhibition at the Town-Hall, which has been before amply described, and its ludicrous effect fully descanted on in Letter II., and need not be repeated. "*And that he and his 'RESPECTED FRIENDS' are right; but who those respected friends are, and in what TERRA INCOGNITA they may dwell, I cannot tell, but I have never yet had the pleasure of meeting with one of them.*" So, then, Mr. Treasurer is much inclined to doubt whether there are any "*Respected Friends*" out of his immediate connexion; or if there are any, then, whether *your* friend, the writer of this, has any "*respected Friend*," whom he can justly call his own. Some idea of this sort may possibly have given rise to the abrupt, not to say rude, and discourteous commencement of his Letter. Be this as it may, he adds, "*in what unknown country they may dwell, he cannot tell, he has never yet had the pleasure of meeting with one of them.*" I doubt much whether such meeting would be mutually pleasant; or even, if he were told their respective names and residences, he would be likely to meet with a very welcome reception, if they were as well acquainted with, or had had as long experience of, the clique of Scarborough Quakers as I have. But independent of all this, the presumption of this vain-glorious sentiment may, I think, be fairly reckoned the acmé of his Quaker impertinence. No doubt, he and his colleague V. P. Rowntree may be considered wonderfully clever in a *retreat*, but not always so happy or successful in an *attack*; their arms are powerless and their

powder worthless, but then they "measure themselves by themselves;" and they need not be told that such as do so "are not wise," however shrewd and amusing they may fancy themselves, or be thought of by others—*proh pudor!* I will only add a word more on this head; viz. That for every one of *their* "Respected Friends," whose written testimony of approval of their conduct they are able to produce, I think I might engage to produce at least half-a-dozen *really* "Respected Friends," and of long standing—many of them thirty, forty, or fifty years—who, having perused "The History and Mystery," have expressed a clear, full, and unequivocal commendation of its contents; indeed, I have heard of no dispassionate person who, on calm consideration of it, has yet found anything which can be gainsayed or disproved; and if there had been, no doubt it would have been replied to long ago.

I have before alluded to the conduct of the truly "RESPECTED FRIENDS" of London and Tottenham in the management of *their* Lancasterian Schools; and in conclusion of these remarks on this Seventh Division of the Treasurer Stickney's Letter, I propose to state, in opposition to his hypothetical case, one of *real* and *recent* occurrence, and as an introduction to it. I will likewise suppose that I had been altogether *mistaken* in my views of the original constitution of the Society here, and could have produced no *facts* or "original documents" in support of them; I will further suppose, that the Quaker body, with Vice-President Rowntree and Treasurer Stickney at their head, could clearly substantiate such mistaken views, etc. Yet, if I really understood and intended only to *lend* the money, and *not* to *give* it, or if they chose to appropriate it in any other mode than that originally contemplated and settled; in either case I insist that, upon *their own Quaker principles*, I am justified in reclaiming my advance of money; and I am founded in that opinion by the following analogous instance. It occurred at *York* about two years ago, and was reported in "The Yorkshire Gazette of

23d May 1840: the facts were simply these (omitting the political colouring of the editor) viz. :—Mr. Joseph Rowntree, a grocer there, and a brother of our V. P. Rowntree, also a grocer here, had been induced to subscribe 3*l.* in aid of a General Subscription, raised at York, to celebrate the marriage of Queen Victoria—which he alleged he had paid on the faith of a certain ‘*resolution*,’ “that the subscription be laid out in provision tickets, to be given to the humbler classes, so as to enable them to rejoice with their families in a sober and orderly way, at their own houses.” A respectable Committee was appointed to carry this “resolution” into effect, and subscriptions entered into accordingly. Mr. Joseph Rowntree heard, however, that some departure from the strict letter of the “resolution” was likely to take place, by the substitution of divers district meetings in that large city, for the entertainment of the humbler classes, in a frugal and cheerful manner, by admission tickets, and under the superintendence of the members of the Committee appointed for each district;—the alteration of the original plan, having, as appears, arisen entirely from the insufficiency of funds to carry out the first intention and “resolution.” Mr. Joseph Rowntree, however, without much inquiry about the matter, felt disappointed, and immediately printed and circulated a hand-bill (a copy of which is given in the Gazette), very forcibly and rather furiously complaining of the alteration, and addressed his said hand-bill to the Secretary *pro tempore*. You will perceive therefore, that in this nice and exact adherence to rule, observed on this occasion by one of our native Scarborough Friends! how very inconsistently and insincerely his relatives and connexions *here* have been acting, in giving currency to an unsigned, unsanctioned resolution, as to our Scarborough School; and thus by a side wind endeavouring to get rid of the all-important one originally entered into. Mr. Joseph Rowntree, it seems, thought it right to complain, and with some uncalled for asperity of language, of the alteration of detail. The letter or hand-bill so printed and circulated, was immediately noticed by the

Secretary, in a temperate and candid manner, giving a full account of the reasons which had compelled the Committee to adopt the course they had taken, and heading his letter by the following humorous couplet from Shakspeare—

“Dost thou think, because thou art virtuous,  
There shall be no more cakes and ale?”

This, however, was a *personal* affair between these two parties; but when the Committee were apprised of the whole circumstances, they came to a unanimous resolution to *return Mr. Rowntree his 3l. subscription money*, thereby shewing that they were more careful of their own reputation for consistency and truthfulness, than some of the Quaker Society have given proof of here. Mr. Joseph Rowntree might, it is presumed, have some certain *conscientious scruples* for dissenting from the first plan of the Committee—such as that it was “a breach of faith,” and as he alleged, “offered an insult to the virtuous wives and daughters of the working classes, the associating together of females of every shade of character, even the courtesan and procuress.” Such extravagant notions evidently possessed his mind, and he therefore concludes his letter by the following pungent inquiry: “Are we warranted then, I appeal to the Committee, as well-wishers of their fellow citizens, in thus spreading temptation in the way of the thoughtless,—in passing over unnoticed the most deserving of the working classes, and bestowing our bounty under circumstances which render it worse than valueless?” This is indeed strong and rather coarse language, especially from a Quaker—it goes on the presumption that Mr. Joseph Rowntree was better acquainted with the characters of all parties than the Committee, and it might so happen that the “most deserving” were frequent customers at his shop. The Tee-Total Society, it seems by the York paper, had in like manner risen in arms against this scheme of District Meetings, and issued another flaming address of a similar character; but I never heard that Mr. R. was at all backed and supported in the violent and unusual measures he took, by any of the considerate and

respectable body of Subscribers, and some perhaps were uncharitable enough to surmise that his conscientious scruples and his real interest might have better harmonized together, if the Committee, instead of returning his subscription money, had issued a goodly number of "*provision tickets*," addressed to his shop for groceries and other necessary articles used by the humbler classes. However, as if to disarm all invidious reports of this kind, he without delay sent the returned 3*l.* to the York Dispensary, and the same was publicly acknowledged in "The Yorkshireman" of the 6th of June by the Treasurer of that institution, as a donation from the alleged withdrawal of the former subscription in consequence, as was stated, of the mode of its appropriation being so much at variance with Mr. R.'s principles. This notice was ostensibly given by the Treasurer, and as such may be considered an *ex parte* affair; but the additional cost of printing and publishing the hand-bills was entirely gratuitous, and which he seems to have borne with exemplary equanimity.

I remain, etc.

G. D.

## LETTER XII.

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“ He that would instruct others in the truth, must never  
deny the truth himself.”

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DEAR SIR,

WE are nearly arrived at the concluding portion of Mr. Treasurer Stickney's curious and characteristic letter, but what remains will still call for strict examination. In the preceding section he puts forth a suppositious, hypothetical case, as a sort of *poser* or feeler, in order to lull suspicion or disarm opposition, and upon such flimsy grounds, he proceeds to argue upon it as follows; viz.—

8. “ I would submit to him (G. D.) whether this ‘seizing by the throat,’ with a ‘pay me what thou owest,’\* particularly when addressed to those who conscientiously believe they owe him nothing, becomes an aged Christian professor like himself.” We have here, I think, a tolerably fair specimen of his Quaker special pleading, known by many among them as a “*shaping their language*,” and of which we have before had some striking examples. My original address was, as he well knows, to the President and Committee as a *public* recognised *body*, and not as *individuals*. Possibly Mr. Treasurer may be legally and technically, but not *morally*, correct in saying, that as *individuals* they believe they owe him nothing; and some of them may have, or pretend to have, *conscientious scruples* on the subject, but in their *public* and ostensible character as a

\* The profane use or rather abuse of this beautiful passage of Holy Writ, to serve a present purpose, I will notice hereafter.

*Committee*, they are assuredly *not* correct in saying this, in the face of the original "Resolution" upon which the Institution was founded, and which passed at a Public Meeting, when the present Vice-President Rowntree's father was in the chair, as before so often alluded to. We do not find that the Treasurer of the York Committee had any *conscientious scruples* about returning Mr. Joseph Rowntree his subscription-money, after the strong expression of his *conscientious disapproval* of the application of it; but whatever his own private opinion might have been, he unhesitatingly complied with the instructions of the Managing Committee and returned the money immediately. Not so our Treasurer; he not only pleads *conscience* for himself, but that of *others*. He may indeed be proxy for V. P. Rowntree and a few other of his Quaker friends, but he adduces no authority even for this, or anything more than his own *ipse dixit* for just as much as it is worth. This matter of *conscience* is too large a question for discussion at present, but we may safely assume, I think, that there are some really tender ones, and some very convenient and elastic ones. As regards the real grounds of difference between the Committee and myself, I am much indebted to a kind friend for having very properly and pithily stated it in few words; thus, "If a gentleman lend money to an Institution, is it right for the Committee of that Institution to turn round upon him, and say it was *a gift* and not a *loan*, and moreover agreeing to be charged *interest* is an acknowledgment that it is *a debt*?" This short statement speaks volumes, and is entirely applicable to the present case. But to proceed now to the other member of Mr. Treasurer's letter, viz.—"Whether it becomes an aged Christian professor like himself," etc., and this, I think, may in like manner be most appropriately answered, by a short extract from the correspondence of another esteemed "FRIEND," who writes to me thus—"Whom I. Stickney may be, I know not personally, but I by no means like his letter, either in its statements or insinuations. I regret that he should feel at liberty to address thee as he does, and appeal to thee as an aged Christian pro-

fessor in reference to this and many other subjects; and whilst I. S. asserts that nothing could induce him to publish *any* thing which did not correspond with truth and equity, etc., how could he insert thy name among the list of Subscribers, when thou art *not one*, and *charge the interest due*. How does this *become him*, or correspond with *truth and equity*, who it is presumed is also a Christian professor, if not an aged one?"

Upon this admirable letter it might be presumptuous in me to offer a single word of comment, except with regard to the disingenuousness of attempting to cast a slur upon my "conduct on this and many other occasions;" but I really think it will be quite time enough to notice this, after he has cleared up his *own conduct* on this and many other subjects, and has obliged the public and me with a specification in detail of what those "many other subjects" include, or may be referred to. Till then I may perhaps very charitably consider them as a mere display of his Quaker liberalism, candour, and *conscientious* regard to "*truth and equity*."

"So he that has but impudence,  
To all things has a fair pretence."

Before I close this section of Treasurer Stickney's Letter, I am very reluctantly compelled to animadvert on what I have hereinbefore alluded to, as a very grave and important part of it; viz., the introduction and application of the strong and pointed language used in the quotation from Scripture to which he refers—this "*seizing by the throat*, with a *pay me* what thou owest;" and in the first place, I must say that it comes with a peculiarly *bad grace* from one of his profession, and of whom it has been well observed, by one of his own gifted and much respected FRIENDS, that "however highly they value and esteem the Scriptures in the letter, they consider there is not only a possibility, but a danger of placing too much dependence upon them, by preferring them to that Divine Spirit from which they proceed, to which they direct attention, and by which only they can be rightly opened to the understanding." (*Vide* H. Tuke's Principles of Religion, as professed by the



Society of Christians called Quakers). And he adds further, "When our blessed Lord set forth the peaceableness of the gospel dispensation, he shewed that a contrary conduct had been permitted in former times,—and unless we intend to controvert the propriety of the manner in which the Author of the Christian Religion propagated it, we must allow that there have been times in which divers things were lawful that are now unlawful, and thus we may reconcile with consistency and justify the ways of God to man." These are the recorded sentiments of an enlightened FRIEND, and I very much prefer appealing to such authority on the present occasion for obvious reasons. I am not aware of any approved gloss or commentary among the FRIENDS on this parable; but those of Doddridge, Scott, and others, I have carefully consulted, although I must confess the general connexion and bearing of it seem so plain and self-evident as scarcely to need any such reference. Assuredly the scope and drift of the whole narrative is to shew the sin and misery of an unforgiving spirit among men, upon repentance and promised amendment; and here let me ask, has any such disposition been ever manifested in the character and conduct of the President, or V. P. Rowntree, Mr. Treasurer or Mr. Secretary, or in the Committee generally? Have they or their colleagues ever said, "Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all?" On the contrary, has not their uniform demeanour and conduct been directly opposed to this?—and therefore the true applicability of the parable affords the severest censure on themselves and such as act with them. "Circumstances in parables do not always admit of minute application;" the connexion and scope of them is a safer guide in understanding and applying them to particular cases. Now I desire to know how this "seizing by the throat, with a pay me what thou owest," which certainly intimates the harsh, cruel, unrelenting manner of enforcing the claim, resembling a choking or strangling, can be at all applicable to my conduct in the proposing of my claim, and that of Mr. W. Keatley, after *thirty years patient* endurance with the taunts and in-

justice of these parties, who for purposes yet unexplained, but sufficiently transparent, have dictated to and led on the Committee in the course of vexatious opposition, involving great and accumulating trouble, anxiety and expense? But I suppose I may wait long for an answer to either of these inquiries and important questions, and the commencement of my Letter No. 7, notices the open breach of the ordinary civilities of society; so that even the children at school may soon learn that "evil communications corrupt good manners," and it is hoped will be induced to shun such courses in after-life, which in the present instance, seem to have produced the utmost climax of profane and vain babbling, as is evidenced in the misapplication of the beautiful parable referred to. Besides, is the "*threat of legal proceedings*," or this "*seizing by the throat*," any where to be found in my communications or conduct, after so many and so long continued provocations, deceptive tergiversations, and self contradictions? The natural expression of my dissatisfaction with, and total disapproval of, such ungrateful returns towards myself and others, cannot be fairly construed into anything like a "*seizing by the throat*." This is evidently going far beyond the truth, and by attempting too much, proves only the unfounded nature of the charge itself, as well as the injustice and untiring hostility of all parties concerned in it. Added to all this, both the Treasurer and V. P. Rowntree are perfectly aware that when they and the Committee, under their guidance, referred me to their respectable law agents, I cautiously abstained from falling into their snare, which was to provoke me to seek legal assistance on my part, thereby creating interminable delays and fruitless vexations and expense, which I certainly never deserved or had any reason to expect from them, or from the President and Committee under their unfluence and control.

I remain, etc.

G. D.

### LETTER XIII.

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"Fiat justitia—ruat cælum."

---

DEAR SIR,

IN my last and several previous Letters I have endeavoured to dissect, and, to your satisfaction, I trust, have fairly disposed of every point of moment in Mr. Treasurer Stickney's letter, so full of evasion and misrepresentation: pertness mistaken for wit, and unfounded assumptions for undoubted facts; besides which a vein of superficial morality, and an absence of true candour, are but too apparent from beginning to end. But perhaps there is nothing more indefensible or uncharitable, than the liberty he takes with the words of Scripture, to give them a most unauthorised meaning.

"He misinterprets them by private  
Instructions, to all aims he drives at;"

and would evidently misapply them in aid of his own purposes, not only to anathematise, as it were, me and others who differ from him, in this world, but very benevolently, by due inference, consigns us to eternal misery in the next—otherwise why refer so very particularly by his P. S. to the last verse of the chapter he quotes, unless to "frighten me from my propriety," by mystifying the plain dishonesty of refusing to acknowledge a just debt, and conveniently forgetting that the whole parable really and truly condemns himself. For if the creditor was harsh and unfeeling in taking his debtor "by the throat," (which, however, I have never done in act or part), the latter at least had the good feeling not to deny the just debt: on the

contrary, "he threw himself at his feet, and besought him, saying—'have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.'" Such humbling confession does not, however, comport with the very different spirit of our Quaker Treasurer, or his associates, the President, the Vice-President, etc. They would fain escape from the disagreeable dilemma in which they have placed themselves; not simply by pleading poverty and craving patience, but by endeavouring to pervert the true applicability of the parable referred to; which is very much the way of some people, who read Scripture *backwards*. They are so blinded by their own self-complacency, and good opinion of themselves, and of each other, that they can see nothing but what squares with their preconceived ideas of purity and perfection in whatever object or pursuit they have in hand, and *stick at nothing* to effect their purpose. It is quite evident, I think, that I am not overstating the matter; I therefore proceed to take some brief notice of the ribaldry and bad taste of this curious epistle—the last article of which is now to be reviewed, and is equally remarkable as a strange jumble of inconclusive reasonings, doubtful morality, and unsound theology, ending at last in the railing and sneer which so clearly indicate the feelings of disappointment and mortification under which the writer is writhing.

9. "He (G. D.) has often reminded me of a character in the Commonwealth—of whom a waggish writer says, 'If left alone in the world, John would have fallen out with Lilburne, and Lilburne with John,'" and finally winding up his precious farrago in the usual Quaker formula of "I remain his friend and well-wisher.

Is. STICKNEY."

It is a sure rule that, whenever a Quaker attempts to sport a bit of "*waggery*," whether his own or that of others, he is quite out of his element. The respectable "*FRIENDS*," as a body, I believe, systematically and practically, no doubt, conscientiously and scrupulously avoid it; but there are others, who will occasionally indulge in this mode of vituperation, and the more superficial they are as to *facts*, the more confident

and assuming is their demeanour and *tone*, shewing either desire to conceal their own weakness and vexation, or to excite the wrathful indignation of their opponent, which they well know how to turn to their own advantage, as I have already noticed in a former letter. In itself, I assure you, it is indeed you may easily suppose, that it has never discomposed me in the smallest degree, except indeed to excite "*morbid musings*" on such preposterous and unseemly course of proceedings, which have often reminded me of the awkward attempts to teach a bear to dance a minuet, sometimes exhibited as a show at country fairs.

Mr. Treasurer would no doubt have it believed, that I must be a most unhappy misanthrope, and would insinuate that I cannot and ought not to enjoy any solace or support whatever. Now, my dear Sir, you, who have known me intimately very many years, and others still longer, can best appreciate the quality of Mr. Treasurer's candour and truthfulness. For myself, I can only say, that his gratuitous and misplaced lecture has produced no one angry feeling in my bosom; a person of my age, and with the experience I have had of the deceit and vanity of all sublunary things, must have profited but little if it has not taught him to "cease from man." Nevertheless, a proper degree of respect is conventionally due to grey hairs, and is inculcated as well by religious principle, as natural, unadulterated, courteous feeling. I cannot but wonder therefore, that he should have indulged in so much freedom of speech as regards myself. But I should consider I was very remiss if I omitted the opportunity his letter presents of retorting upon him, and setting Mr. Treasurer right, as to the *true character* of that veteran politician and sterling patriot JOHN LILBURN, which he so glibly takes up at secondhand. The truth is, his real merit or demerit can only be fairly ascertained by a careful inspection of the tracts, trials, and sufferings, which relate to this honest and conscientious, and unconquerable individual. These are all exceedingly scarce, but happily I possess a few of them

in three thin 4to volumes, with the rare portrait of him pleading at the bar, which I esteem much before George Fox's still rarer tract, or "Battledore of Grammar," which I have seen, but do not possess.

That this oppressed and persecuted man should at times have been driven into some extravagances, perhaps faults, no one will be inclined to dispute, but his honest spirit and fearless opposition to some of Oliver Cromwell's despotic measures, excited the implacable ill-will of that notorious deceiver, who alike both hated and feared him; and he it was, as is generally understood and believed, who said concerning him what Mr. Treasurer Stickney assigns to some *waggish writer*, perhaps from "Maunder's Biographical Treasury" (who by-the-by only quotes the fact, but gives no authority). His integrity and ability were put to full proof on many trying occasions; and it is admitted "that he always freed himself by a most strong fatality of fortune," though accused of *high treason*, whilst not long before two learned and excellent divines, C. Love and Mr. Gibbons, were tried for the similar offence of alleged conspiracy against the Commonwealth, and beheaded on Tower Hill. It appears then that Mr. Treasurer is only chargeable with retailing at secondhand the low buffoonery of some obscure *wag*, who gleaned this nonsense from the sayings and doings of the remarkable dissembler first-named. *Libburne's* real integrity and moral worth, however, were of a far superior grade to those of *Cromwell*; and although grievously tormented by long imprisonments and persecutions, yet he passed through them all with an unsullied character in every relation of life, and with the affectionate love and universal esteem of his family and friends. Hume notices his cruel prosecution in the Star Chamber, and his valorous defence, as well as resolution in suffering, from which he was afterwards released, and obtained damages; is then again imprisoned, but on trial by jury is acquitted; and a third time tried and acquitted during the *Protectorate*: and although Hume's tendencies are chiefly aristocratic, yet in no part of his history

does he condemn the conduct of this stern Republican or Leveller, as he is sometimes called. He says indeed in one place, "the *restless* Lilburn for like offences was brought to a *new* trial, and acquitted with *new* triumph and exultation:" but the times in which he lived were peculiarly *restless* and unsettled, and such extraordinary characters are generally raised up in such extraordinary times, otherwise *George Fox* might never have been heard of. His private life, it would appear, was innocent and exemplary in every relation, for the historian states that "even the women applied by petition for his release;" and in another place, "this man (Lilburn), the most turbulent, but the most upright and courageous of human kind, was tried for a transgression of the new statute of treasons. But although he was plainly guilty, he was acquitted, to the great joy of the people," etc.

Thus it appears from Hume's condensed account, that he was, though a great sufferer, supported in a good cause by the testimony of his own conscience and the sincere sympathy of thousands, which more fully appears from a perusal of the original volumes in my hands. And now, *in conclusion*, I would desire to fix your attention for a short time to the latter days of this estimable and useful man, in order to shew the opinion the QUAKERS at that time had concerning him, and the respect they entertained for him; and of this no better proof need be given than the following simple and touching narrative of his death and burial, which I have extracted from a work of undoubted authority, as follows, viz.—

"August 31, 1657. Mr. John Lilburn (commonly known by the name of Lieut.-Colonel Lilburn), dying on Saturday at Eltham, was this morning removed thence to London, and his corpse conveyed to the house called the *Mouth* at *Alders Gate*, which is the usual meeting-place of the people called *Quakers*, to whom, it seems, he had lately joined in opinion; at this place, that afternoon, assembled a medley of people, among whom the Quakers were most eminent for number; and within the house a controversy was, whether the ceremony of a herse-

cloth should be cast over his coffin: but the major part, being Quakers, not assenting, the coffin was about five o'clock in the evening brought forth into the street. At its coming out there stood a man on purpose to cast a velvet herse-cloth over the coffin, and he endeavoured to do it, but the crowd of Quakers not permitting it, and having got the body upon their shoulders, they carried it away without further ceremony, and the whole company conducted it into *Moorfields*, and thence to the new churchyard adjoining to *Bedlam*, where it lieth interred."

*Cromwelliana*, p. 168.

What our Quaker Treasurer would say of this, if he knew it, he can best explain. He would not surely *disown* him for a brother Quaker, after such manifest proof of the estimation in which he was held by the general body of the Society then but recently established, or deprive him of the respectful sympathy of posterity; at any rate, I hope I have, in some measure, retrieved the character of Lilburn in your eyes from the sneering insinuations of his *quasi* antagonist, Mr. Treasurer, in which, I think, he has shewn as little acquaintance with *History* and *Biography*, as in the preceding section of his letter he has displayed in regard to the *Scriptural theology* of the parable on which he has attempted to treat; and after a very careful, and I hope candid, consideration of the whole of his letter, I may leave you to judge of the *sincerity* or *value* of his professions of his being any real "*friend or well-wisher*" of mine; at least, from what I have ever experienced of either, I rather *dread* than *desire* them; for if such professions are insincere and deceitful, the obligation on my part is necessarily at an end, and the proffered favour is really worse than valueless.

I remain, etc.

G. D.



LONDON:  
PRINTED BY MANNING AND WASON,  
IVY LANE, ST. PAUL'S.

SEQUEL TO THE HISTORY

AND

GUIDE TO THE MYSTERY

OF THE

SCARBOROUGH LANCASTERIAN SCHOOLS

IN A SERIES OF

LETTERS TO A FRIEND.

*By George Laver.*

*By the Author of "The History and Mystery" of that Institution.*

---

PART THE SECOND.

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"NECESSITAS NON HABET LEGES."

"AUDI ALTERAM PARTEM."

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LONDON:

CHARLES KNIGHT & CO., 22, LUDGATE STREET.

SCARBOROUGH: W. S. THEAKSTONE.

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1843.

*54.*

**LONDON**  
**PRINTED BY MANNING AND MASON,**  
**IVY-LANE, PATERNOSTER-ROW.**

SEQUEL TO THE HISTORY, ETC.  
OF THE  
SCARBOROUGH LANCASTERIAN  
SCHOOLS.

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LETTER XIV.

---

"It fares with some of us, that when wee have taken much paines to doe well, wee must take as much more to prevent misconstructions, and thinck our double paines well rewarded if at last wee may escape without a mischief."—G. WITHER, 1661.

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DEAR SIR,

After some pause in my correspondence, partly unavoidable, and partly intentional, in order to give time for the deliberate consideration of the President and Committee of the Lancasterian Schools here, and to elicit their sentiments on the extraordinary conduct of their Treasurer, and their own, as well as to collect, as near as may be, the impartial opinion and judgment which the public may have formed thereupon; I am so well satisfied with the significant silence of the former party, and the uniform approval of the latter, that I proceed, without difficulty or delay, to the completion of the task I have undertaken at your desire, and hope to consummate to your satisfaction, and that of all unbiassed and unprejudiced persons who are, or ever have been connected with schools of this character, throughout the length and breadth of the land. For as a judicious friend once observed to me, "it is a matter that will keep very well, and may possibly be rather improved by keeping." And in conclusion, I shall leave it in the hands of the ingenuous and intelligent of all classes, and remain satisfied with your and their impartial verdict thereupon. The origin of my unhappy connexion

with this sadly mystified and perverted school affair has been fully and fairly detailed in "The History and Mystery," etc. already published, and by these Letters as a "Sequel" thereto; but, unfortunately, what was meant by me for good, in having the public property in these schools vested in nine trustees, under a special deed, declaratory of such trusts (which deed having never been enrolled, and being now in the custody or power of private persons, must, unless renewed by the two or three surviving trustees, become a source of difficulty and expense), upon the best and most approved models of such schools in or near London, is now, it seems, to be transformed into an occasion of bitterness and strife, by the denying and falsifying the very first principles of this and other similar institutions, in order to promote the ease and influence and secular policy of certain parties, by throwing everything into another channel, or new form of lottery of chances, of their own contrivance and for their own benefit, contrary to all precedent, and to the express import of the resolutions originally made and entered into more than thirty years ago, and practically, or rather theoretically acknowledged by the public Reports and Accounts of the Institution during this long period, until the present Treasurer Stickney, at his own pleasure, thought fit about a year ago, to alter the same; and not only so, but this same official would fain stigmatize me as propounding most unreasonable and unfair pretensions, denouncing me in this world, and almost anathematizing me in the next, for only reminding him and them of their egregious injustice, and objecting to their injurious plans and contrivances to mystify and conceal the real merits of the case, and thereby prevent, as far as possible, their being known or inquired into, to the manifest wrong of myself, Mr. Keatley, or other original claimants, who never have agreed, nor ever will consent to any such *bubble schemes* as, alas! too much prevail in the present day, but in 1812-13, were scarcely ever heard of.

It may here be right, perhaps, to refer you again to Mr. Treasurer's letter, which, besides its many erroneous state-

ments, is so replete with vain conceits and unseemly arrogance, quite unbefitting his public station and office; altogether inappropriate to the business in hand, and jeopardizing thereby the prosperity and usefulness of the institution itself: for who can repose implicit confidence in parties who either originate or promote such bold, unscrupulous reflections and insinuations as his letter contains, calculated to depreciate and injure the character of one who, thirty years ago, lent his willing aid to furnish a portion of the pecuniary means necessary for liquidating the original debt upon these schools, and is now exposed to obloquy and insult on account of such mis-placed confidence, as the only return he may expect ever to receive from Mr. Treasurer and his colleagues, the present managers of this school concern. But notwithstanding their double-distilled anger, and hatred, and combined opposition, I trust I really feel more for them than myself, and am deeply concerned that any man or body of men should so pervert their own public acts, as to make them the vehicle for diffusing uncharitable attacks and untenable assumptions against the personal character of so humble an individual as myself; and not less so, of another sufferer, Mr. W. Keatley, whose age and situation might entitle him to sympathy at least, if not redress. You have, no doubt, seen from Mr. Treasurer's letter, with some surprise, if not disgust, that he affects to disbelieve I have any "respected friends," at least he knows not "in what *terra incognita* they may dwell;" and further, that "on many other subjects," as well as in this school question, he doubts whether my conduct has been becoming an "aged Christian professor." If this is not the essence of sanctimonious hypocrisy, I know not what is; and the more remarkable coming from one of his Christian profession, and generally correct deportment. To say the truth, I really believe I have lived too long to suit the convenient schemes and selfish projects of such *quiet, truth-loving* partizans, whose secret wish may be "when shall he die, and his name perish;" but, nevertheless, I still remain unmoved by their accusations, and am stedfastly resolved to

maintain the cause of truth and justice in a calm and dispassionate manner, against all opposition; and those who best know my true character, from long acquaintance, will, I am sure, be ready to admit that I am not addicted to speak vauntingly of myself, or to disparage the good qualities of others; but really, such treatment as I have met with from Mr. Treasurer, and other official personages, would almost warrant me in adopting the language of a distinguished sufferer in olden times, and say, "whereinsoever any is bold (I speak foolishly), I am bold also." Yet that I may not be chargeable, "as it were foolishly, with this confidence of boasting," I prefer giving you the following extract of a letter from one of my oldest and most "respected friends," in reference to "The History and Mystery," already published, viz.—

"I have received your late publication, which I have perused with much attention. As I proceeded, I found it interesting, and before I reached its conclusion, I found your part in the correspondence to be worthy of that straightforward uprightness, in all its bearings, which has ever been inseparable to your honourable conduct during a very long period I have had the pleasure of knowing you, approaching, I believe, nearly half a century. That a respectable individual making choice of any town for a residence, where he early evinced a disposition to be useful—to be treated in the unmerited manner that you have experienced at Scarborough, appears to me very extraordinary, and by those too from whom you might assuredly have expected a very different course of conduct. Your friend, the Doctor, may be a very amiable man; but I cannot help thinking that the position he has taken in the controversy is, to say the least of it, most awkward, and far from being satisfactory. As for the rest of your opponents, their conduct appears so unprecedented, that I really am at a loss for a term sufficiently strong to express my opinion of the same, and I consider you have acquitted yourself of a public duty in having exposed their proceedings to view with so much perspicuity

and ability; and it may be gratifying to you to learn that I lent the little book to two old and respected friends of mine, with a view of having their opinion on the subject, and I was much pleased to find that it coincided with my own."

But if it be alleged this is simply the opinion of an unknown private friend at a distance, I will only in addition refer such objectors to the invitation given to me soon after the passing of the Reform Bill, by our first mayor, S. S. Byron, Esq., through the medium of Mr. Alderman Weddell, to have my name proposed to the Home Secretary of State as one of the permanent Borough magistrates, which I courteously declined, for reasons then given; but this shews, at least, that my public and private character was not so lightly thought of as Mr. Treasurer would now wish to represent. Furthermore, it is remarkable that at this very time, I was actually in correspondence with friends in Edinburgh, and most willingly assisted, in relieving the anxieties and necessities of a very dear young Quaker friend then in deep distress, and who was shortly after removed by death, as is well known to some of the respectable Members of the Society here and elsewhere. Pardon this digression, which nothing but its important bearing should have extorted from me.

I remain, etc.

G. D.



## LETTER XV.

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"If you would dry up the river of discord, you must extract the fountains and rills which form it."

"Without truth, there is no reliance upon language, no confidence in friendship, no security in promises or oaths."

---

DEAR SIR,

I will now proceed, with all convenient brevity, to examine the moral principle of Mr. Treasurer Stickney's "different form," or new plan of stating the school accounts—after first tracing the original mode of arranging them, which had been observed by his Quaker predecessors and himself for about 30 years before ;—and as an introduction to this, it may be proper to premise that what was but *theoretically* good at the first, in acknowledging "*Interest due*," yet without paying it (longer than two years), was not *new*, and that what is really new in Mr. Treasurer's "different form" or present clap-trap scheme, is *practically neither good nor honest*.

In order to demonstrate these points, I must refer to the specific form of the entries in the first Treasurer Rowntree's, the elder, published accounts, as reported by himself in manner following: viz.—

<i>Dr.</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
"1814. Lancasterian School—to interest . .	22	10	0
1815. ditto ditto to ditto . .	22	10	0"

So that, from the very commencement of the school, the payment of interest on the 450*l.* advanced was hereby clearly recognised and established beyond all doubt or dispute, by the Treasurer's own admission, and the actual payment of it to me

for the two first years, founded upon the original rules and resolutions of the said institution, and confirmed, moreover, by the written list of names furnished to me at my request in the year 1815 by the present V. P. Rowntree, and in which my name is inserted with twelve others, who, having paid up the money subscriptions of 234*l.*, will receive interest thereon. (See "History and Mystery," p. 106.)

However, as the annual reports, drawn up by the Messrs. Rowntree, took no special notice of these matters, or of the total advanced capital of 450*l.*, upon which amount, however, "Interest" was avowedly charged and allowed by the Treasurer's accounts; and as even the mention of such discrepancy gave rise to much unpleasant feeling, as tending to mislead many; I could not, after this discovery of the apprehended departure from the original constitution of the Society, continue to give my support and countenance to such delusive, and, as I believed, injurious projects, and in consequence was under the necessity of declining my annual Subscription of 1*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*, and of sending three children to the schools, after 1815—16. This resolution was firmly acted upon in 1816; and for the space of 13 years, *i. e.* till 1829, I was kept in perfect ignorance of the school concerns, never having had any annual report sent to me as heretofore, or receiving one penny of either principal or interest. Dr. Murray received the presidentship at this time;—upon which the long intermission was abandoned, and in that same year I received the report of the school affairs, and annexed statement of the then Treasurer, John Rowntree, the younger: his account, which on inspection I found to agree as regards "Interest" payable (but never paid at that time or since) in form partly corresponding with those of his late father, and which I extract as follows: "1829—30, Interest to Shareholders, 22*l.* 10*s.*," and the same entries, in precisely the same terms, in the two succeeding years.

During these years, and perhaps longer, the now V. P. Rowntree was the Treasurer; but as my official letter to Mr. Henry Fowler, the Secretary, of 23rd December, 1831, and

which is given in full in "the History and Mystery, etc." pp. (22—24), would be likely to disturb the feelings of the quiet Quaker Treasurer, and his colleagues in the Committee, I was, in consequence, kept without any more of the annual reports for several years, and not until Treasurer Stickney came into office had I any further opportunity of knowing the state of the schools; but in the report of 1838 I find the same form of words used in respect of "Interest" as before by Treasurer Rowntree, and the same unwarranted liberty taken in putting down my name in the Subscription list, although I never authorized or intended it. In 1839 it appears that for the first time "Interest" is entirely omitted, although on the face of the accounts a balance is confessedly due from the Treasurer of 26*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.*, which balance is said to be "chargeable with Master and Mistressee salary for the ensuing quarter, and many other expenses"—what these many other expenses are, or whether they include "Interest" due on money advanced, remains in obscurity; but in the succeeding year (1840) the Treasurer Stickney's account exhibits these entries, in words and figures following: viz.—

"Dr. To interest due to proprietary shareholders,		£	s.	d.
in consideration of which each share-				
holder is entitled to have three children in				
the school at one time		-	-	- 22 10 0
Cr. By amount entered in list of subscriptions				
as paid or allowed by proprietary share-				
holders		-	-	- 22 10 0

Now, if Mr. Treasurer Rowntree, Jun., was the *first* to invent the term "Shareholders" in the former entries of 1829 to 1831-2, Mr. Treasurer Stickney may certainly claim a degree of originality in adding to that grand mistake the still more objectionable epithet of "Proprietary Shareholders," they having the *original Trust Deed* in their hands, which entirely excludes the idea of the existence of any such characters. Mr. Treasurer Stickney has also the unenviable merit of being the first contriver and concocter of this truly ludicrous juggle,

of first charging his account with "Interest due," and then most adroitly and conveniently writing it off on the credit side with "Interest from Shareholders paid or allowed;" but really and truly neither paying or receiving anything directly on these accounts. This gross attempt at deception, by a play of figures and words, could not fail to excite attention and animadversion among men of correct business habits and honourable principles :

" For we are best of all led to  
Men's principles by what they do ;  
In which, the more they are imbrangled,  
The more they stir, the more they 're tangled."

Thus you may perceive the craft and cunning of our two wary Treasurers, by the great pains taken to amplify and mystify their bold assumptions: first, allowing "interest to be due," but relieving himself from the payment of it by assuming that *he* and not *I* had the option of disposing of it according to *his* pleasure—not *mine*, and untruly asserting that the same had been "paid or allowed" on my part: a more shocking violation of "*truth and equity*" cannot possibly exist, at least so far as I am individually concerned.

I therefore took an early opportunity of writing to the President, and afterwards to himself, remonstrating<sup>1</sup> against such unfair proceedings, and pointing out the error and injustice of them, which produced only an angry and bitter reply from the latter, and which threatened me with a "different form" of account in future. But really, as I never had been *paid* any portion of "interest due," nor had ever given my sanction to or *allowed* of my name in any subscription list which could justly authorise him to make such an appropriation of my share of "interest due," nor sent any children to the schools in lieu of it; the whole statement is a *fabrication* of his own, and entirely unwarranted and groundless. This straightforward, plain-spoken, matter-of-fact sort of argumentation was, it would seem, little relished by Mr. Treasurer and his worthy compeers; and therefore, after due consideration and consultation, I received a dexterous, but very tricky kind of answer

to it, as above referred to, which I took some pains to lay before you, together with my observations thereupon, in the first part of this "*Sequel*," or series of letters already published, and to which I only need refer for further particulars.

The next annual meeting of the School was deferred for some time, but was at length formally announced by placards, headed "*Scriptural Education*;" and it were to be wished that the officers and leading members of the Society would themselves study and practise Scripture maxims, as well as inculcate them on others. They would then learn that the essence of Scripture morality is *truth* and *justice*, as the only sure basis of charity and peace: hence we are exhorted to "*do justly*," ere we can truly "*love mercy*," or "*walk humbly with God*" or man (Micah vi. 8). This peculiar heading, so likely to excite comparison and invidious reflections, has been since discontinued, and justly so; as it certainly is not the *exclusive* or *distinctive* characteristic of this Society.

The report and accounts of the School extend from December 1840, to April 1842. They are now before me, and in them we have the development of Treasurer Stickney's meditated alteration, or, as he states, "different form" of account, which consists in the entire suppression of "interest paid or allowed," contrary to the established practice generally observed, and which, though *evaded*, was never positively *disavowed*. At my desire, very often expressed, my name is withdrawn from the list of subscribers; and, instead of paying either principal or interest so long and so unjustly withheld from me, it is exhibited in another or "different form" in a separate list of what is called "Shareholders who possess the right of having three children in the Schools, in virtue of each respective share, on the lowest terms of admission;" but very carefully suppressing the important addition of the original contract, viz. "*or receive interest, at their option*." This truly is a "different form" or new device of perpetrating and perpetuating the old worn-out scheme of deception and falsehood, which, indeed, may for a time prevail over honest truth, but will not abide the day of trial. It is very observable that in all

the reports and accounts from 1829 (for the early ones cited differ from them), the term "Shareholders" is invariably used by both the Treasurers Rowntree and Stickney, whereas those of the elder Rowntree use no such designation, nor indeed *after the execution of the Deed of Trust*, could it be so used with any regard to *truth*, but only for securing certain ends and purposes not at all contemplated when the Schools were established.

It is now, however, found more convenient to use this term, as the readiest way, they think, of getting rid of both principal and interest, though it be ever so much opposed to "*truth* and *equity*"—their empty boast! for it consists in nothing else than the forbidden publication of my name in a "different form," and under a *false character*, and to which they well know I have no sort of title, except in their prejudiced minds and perverted understandings; and then, as to any "*option*" *on my part*, they insinuate, nay, almost affirm, that it is all a mistake. They admit, indeed, that they have no books or documents to prove it, and even refuse to produce the account books they have got, or to attend to any representation or complaint which may be offered on these grounds. The last report of 1843 has but very recently been issued, and, in form, corresponds with the preceding one, so that the former remarks equally apply to this.

I have thus gone carefully through the accounts, as well those of the present Treasurer Stickney as his predecessors—the Rowntrees—father and son, so far as the reports in my possession have enabled me to investigate and comment on them; but I cannot omit to observe that the ladies' department of the schools is, and ever has been, conducted on the most judicious and economical principles; and their last account shews a balance due to the Treasurer of 3*l.* 15*s.* 10½*d.*, after giving credit for the children's pay of 6*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*, which is certainly a very handsome contribution on their part; whilst the general account of Treasurer Stickney admits a small balance in his hands of 6*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*, after giving credit for 30*l.* "amount received from T. Hardcastle, Esq., as executor of

the late Miss Jay." So that, but for this casual occurrence, the institution would have been considerably in debt. The new Master, I am happy to say, appears to give general satisfaction, and well deserves the remuneration allotted to him, which, besides his fixed salary of 60*l.*, includes, I apprehend, other perquisites and allowances of weekly pence from the boys or their friends—as nothing of this sort has appeared in the Treasurer's last year's account, further than a slight intimation that such pay, on a graduated scale, is expected from them. Upon the whole, though the late reports present a favourable aspect as regards the children under tuition, the finances are evidently in a low condition, and can hardly be expected to increase much, unless by occasional donations or bequests, which will, no doubt, be very acceptable to Mr. Treasurer Stickney.

I am quite aware that the foregoing dry statement of facts and figures must have tried your patience; let me, therefore, conclude with an extract of a letter from a facetious and highly respected Friend, whose wit and wisdom are alike conspicuous, as follows:—

"I have perused with much interest the little tome ('Hist. and Myst.') you were so obliging as to present me with. From the details you reveal, it is quite evident that you have been seriously and very unnecessarily annoyed, and without any, the slightest provocation.

"In reference to public affairs, it has been my lot more than once to be placed behind the curtain, when I have had leisure to contemplate the ropes and pulleys, and the tricks and contrivances which are resorted to, as convenience may require; and it has caused me the greatest grief to see men who, from their education and station in society, ought to be ashamed to act the part of scene-shifters, condescend, in the drama of life, to act a part adapted only for the meanest of the uneducated amongst us."

I think you must be pleased with the propriety of these remarks, and am,

Dear Sir,

G. D.

LETTER XVI.

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“He who gives good instruction and sets a bad example, brings food  
in one hand and poison in the other.

“When interest is at variance with conscience, any distinction to make  
them friends will serve the hollow-hearted.”

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DEAR SIR,

IN my last and former letters I have endeavoured to point out the rise and gradual increase of this “Mystery of Iniquity,” if I may so call it; and have brought before you two of the leading parties, who, in their official acts and accounts, appear to have signalized themselves in support of each other; differing, indeed, somewhat in the variety and obliquity of their devious paths, but all tending to the same end—viz. the suppression of truth and the setting up of error; either denying the existence of, or else falsifying, the early resolutions, records, and documents, so far as they are able; and asserting or assuming a broad and baseless fabrication in their place and stead.

A powerful writer has observed, “it is sometimes amusing, and sometimes not a little shocking, to trace the progress of a lie, from its imperfect infancy to full-grown manhood, and to note the share which different liars have had in its concoction, and the additions made to it by each successive artist, according to his gifts and opportunities: with some, who are no bunglers at such arts, there is a boldness in dashing on their colours, a greatness of invention and a depth of sentiment, which would do honour to the highest powers of genius; but plain



lying, and artificial falsehood, in all their varieties, can be done by them on the shortest notice, and in any moderate or extravagant quantity, as occasion requires; they are quite perfect also in the arts of hypocrisy and dissimulation, and in a word, in this department of industry it is difficult to name a branch in which they are not excellent. To do them justice, moreover, they are not very particular as to quality; do not stand much upon form, or delicacy; and can rap out a torrent of slanderous abuse in a style which the lowest practitioners might look upon with despair." Now, although Mr. Treasurer Stickney, and others, who were concerned in the issuing of the notable resolution, that "no expectation of money-interest was at first held out as an inducement," etc., and afterwards he was compelled to desert his friends, and to give up that false position, by adopting another *equally false*, yet with amazing pertinacity and amusing variety, he is now prepared with a still further display of his clever proceedings, and has at length chalked out a "different form" of account, by exhibiting my name in a new contrived list of what he calls "Shareholders;" although, in fact, he well knows I never at any time justly sustained, nor ever wish to sustain, such name or character; nor is there any sanction for it by any of the deeds or documents relating to the institution, *but quite the contrary*; for had it been at first proposed as a joint-stock bargain in *shares*, certainly scrip receipts, or share certificates, would have been given, as in the *Cliff-bridge* concern here, and similar speculations elsewhere; and which indeed are always required between buyer and seller before any just title can be made by transfer. It is also well known, that "*Proprietary Schools*" of any kind had scarcely any existence at the time these Lancastrian Schools were established in Scarborough—thirty or more years ago; nor can they be reconciled with the principle and pattern of the Parent Society of the British and Foreign Schools in London, or out of it, of good repute or of any long continuance. In proof of this, I need only refer to the last Annual Report of the British and Foreign School (1842), whereby it appears that

several applications made by them to the Committee of Privy Council for grants in aid, were unsuccessful. For the reasons assigned, viz.—

1. *Fordingbridge*. To re-establish a school, closed for want of funds. *Refused*, because there was no confidence that the school would be permanently supported and efficiently conducted.

2. *Worcester*. For aid to erect a girls-school there. *Refused*, because of the required funds being proposed to be raised by *shares*.

3. *Stourbridge*. For aid to erect a school-house there. *Refused*, the necessary funds being raised by *loan*.

And in the report of the preceding year (1841), there is a case of—

4. *Huddersfield*. Towards *defraying a debt*. *Refused*, because the school was not “*conveyed to trustees*.” (Not, as it would seem, on account of the *debt* by itself considered.)

Now, in all these several cases, there is something more or less analogous to our Lancasterian Schools at Scarborough, as thus: In 1810, they were first erected at the risk of private individuals; in 1812, they were closed for want of necessary funds; in 1813, they were again opened by funds, raised, as *lately alleged* by Rowntree and Stickney, in *shares*, but as appears by early existing deeds and documents, by *loans* of 18*l.* each from divers individuals, to be repaid with *Interest*, at *their option*, by the Managing Committee of Annual Subscribers.

Now, if the case were *shares*, it is clear *that* is a certain bar to *all* aid; not so in the case of *debt*, provided the schools are vested *in trust*, as is literally the situation at Scarborough. The Trust Deed being now in the actual custody of Rowntree, Stickney, or others, with their privity and consent; although at one time it was modestly insinuated that I had it; the Committee, however, or certain Members of it, keep up a connexion with the Parent Society, and contribute as an auxiliary to their general funds, on the ground of *convenience and good policy*, be engaging their countenance and support, and thereby getting

the school supplied with a qualified master, and with necessary books, slates, etc., at the cheapest rate. All this is no doubt very judicious so far; but nothing beyond this can be expected, either from them, or the Committee of Privy Council, who it would seem discountenance, and constantly refuse assistance to *Joint Stock Schools*, or their *Shareholders*, of which some, it may be presumed, have more frequently sprung up in these later times of wild speculation, and absorbing selfishness. However this may be, our modest, truth-loving Quaker-managers, "who strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel," are quite shocked at the idea of being considered *in debt*, either individually, or collectively, and are not a little indignant at the charge or suspicion of it.—"No," say they, "we have, it is true, for 30 years, from the opening of the schools, admitted it to be due in our accounts, and charged for interest accordingly, which we have not paid you after the first or second year of the establishment, but we will now do so no longer, unless you will first permit us to put our hands into your pocket, and take out a sum at least equal to that we have extracted for the last 27 or 28 years; and since you have invariably objected to this, we shall contrive to put it in a 'different form', and still keep the money in our own hands; we will, therefore, withdraw your name, which you never authorized us to insert in the list of *Subscribers*, and in lieu of it, we will enter it under a 'different form' as a *Shareholder*, not, however, paying, nor intending to pay a farthing of principal or interest, which we have indeed acknowledged in our accounts to be due to you for many years past, and, notwithstanding the fundamental articles, resolutions, and deeds of the school are directly opposed to our scheme, since the schools are expressly settled in trust as *public* and not *private* property, by the Trust Deed of 14th July 1813, which deed we hold, and mean to keep very snugly to ourselves, without registering it, or allowing you any copy of it."

Upon such disgraceful, because unjust, grounds, many of the original claimants, besides myself, have been deprived of

their rights, and repulsed, and even stigmatized by the present possessors of the use and patronage of the schools, for asking or expecting any satisfaction from them, which amounts to making a huckstering *job* of their seeming *charity* by buying up the bad debts of the too credulous money-lenders, as cheap as may be, of their executors or friends here or elsewhere, but not omitting to estimate them at their original value in their contributions; thus making a merchandize of their good deeds, to the manifest wrong and prejudice of the original founders of the schools, who, upon all fair and honourable principles, advanced their money by *way of loan*, and not upon any doctrine of expediency or fluctuating *scale of chances*. And who, I pray you, are the parties, who now contend so strenuously and so fiercely for this new and "different form" of statement, but the very men who already thus stand convicted and self-condemned of former mystifications and deceivableness, and under such new and "different form" are availing themselves of the necessities and unfortunate position of others, and going out of their way to insult me, and those who will not submit to such irregular and unreasonable conduct, but are steadily resolved to expose these practices, under whatever "different form" they appear, whether of subtle manœuvre or undiguised hostility, and from whatever quarter they may proceed.

I remain, dear Sir, etc.

G. D.

## LETTER XVII.

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“ We never lose anything by the discovery of honest intentions.  
Good principles are an inexhaustible capital to trade with.”

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DEAR SIR,

THE extent of my last letter, which embraced so many topics in reference to the Lancastrian School affairs, compelled me at its close, to take only a brief and hurried survey of the latest Reports and Statements of the Treasurer's Accounts :—I will now, therefore, endeavour to supply what was deficient in that respect.

It appears then, from reference to the Reports of 1829, 1830, and 1831, that the Treasurer's own subscription was 1*l.* 1*s.* annually, and that in 1838 and 1839 it was enlarged to 2*l.* 2*s.* each year. Now at these different periods he did not sustain the newly-created character of ‘*Shareholder* ;’ but having very likely been twitted on the subject by some one who might have read my Letter addressed to Alderman Weddell, in the first part of this ‘*Sequel*,’ page 20, and feeling, it may be, some kind of brotherly sympathy in the case of a young Quaker friend at York, whose father or near relative (Robert Clemesha) formerly occupied the business premises that are now occupied by Stickney and Rowntree, as a hatter here ;—judging, I say, how acceptable it must be to him to be able to realise any portion of the capital of his late relative, which had been so many years advanced in such a hopeless undertaking, where neither interest nor principal was ever paid him, nor ever intended to be paid, it is presumed Mr. Treasurer found no great difficulty in coming to a favour-

able accord with the surviving representative John Clemesha, on this pitiful subject: but *what the terms* precisely were, he has prudently kept to himself, and not disclosed in the Report or his account to others. Now it would really be a curious, and not unimportant question to ascertain how much below the original sum of 18*l.* advanced and paid down some thirty years ago, was actually fixed and settled upon between these contracting parties, but doubtless some haggling for an abatement upon such a *desperate debt* would be urged and expected in the way of discount or otherwise, and upon this point it may well be imagined a good deal of huckstering and chaffering would naturally take place, during the progress of this *quasi* rag-fair negotiation, for the purchase, not indeed of old clothes, but of worn-out, worthless promises. It would of course be "*diamond cut diamond*,"—but I have great doubt if any differential or reduced sum paid would go to benefit the School funds; and even if it did, it would still look very much like "*robbing Peter to pay Paul*,"—would it not? a curious medley truly, of *charity* blended and compounded with a *quantum sufficit* of regard to the *main chance*, according to the usual rules of Scarborough quackery, alias *Quakery*, as an alterative in a 'different form' to that used by experienced and honourable practitioners elsewhere, and in such wise as might conveniently gratify our Treasurer's passion for the *public* good and his *own* likewise, enabling him to acquire the name of 'Shareholder,' forsooth! and then falling back on a more limited subscription, reduced by so much as the difference between 2*l.* 5*s.*, and 5*s.* amounts to!!

Now you may perhaps wish to know how I have gained this information, and I very readily answer, from the tenor of his own reported accounts, which I have preserved, and carefully examined and compared; for having in early life been accustomed to business habits, which I am sorry he does not seem to like, and being thereby somewhat familiar with the mode of checking accounts by double entry, I have taken considerable pains to scrutinise his Lists in the two successive Reports of

1840 and 1842, and in the former the name of "*John Clemesha of York*" appears in *italics*, and in the last it is entirely omitted, and that of Mr. Treasurer Stickney put in its stead—after the precedent and pattern of a similar substitution of the name of J. Rowntree for W. Keatley in the Report, Deeds, and accounts, thirty years ago. Likewise in the List of Subscribers, the former name is withdrawn, and Mr. Treasurer's inserted for the sum of 2*l.* 5*s.*, being an increase of 3*s.* beyond his former subscription. You will thus perceive by these various entries, that in 'different form' and amount, and at different times, his subscription has fluctuated from 1*l.* 1*s.* to 2*l.* 2*s.* and 2*l.* 5*s.* per annum; and better it would have been that he had kept it so, or gone on increasing it in the same *ratio*,—but, most unfortunately in the latest Report of this very year, 1843 (which I have only just been able to obtain a sight of by the courtesy of a friend), I am shocked to find that the springs of his benevolence seem nearly exhausted, having *reported himself* as a subscriber of 5*s.* only!! when it was expected he would rather have increased than diminished it, and thus have given a more imposing and encouraging aspect on *paper* at least, rather than by publishing himself at the small sum of 5*s.* only!! So, however, it really is, and perhaps this may serve to account in some measure for the marked omission and apparent discourtesy and inconsistency in his declining to supply me with a Copy of this last year's Report, (which had been usual before), bearing as I do, the character of a "*Trustee*," and as he and his party wish to have it believed, of a "*Shareholder*" also, two characters certainly not very consistent with each other, and which the original compact at the formation of the Schools *most explicitly contradicts*, which provides and declares that the *Trustees are not Shareholders*; *vide* Resolution of 29th February, 1813, Mr. J. Rowntree in the Chair, inserted in full at page 101 of the "*History and Mystery*," etc.

Another fact of some moment occurs in the Treasurer's last account, at the credit side of which is an entry as follows:—

"Interest on Taylor's Legacy, 4*l*." and such has been the brief notice taken of it for several previous years. But in the Reports of 1829, 1830, and 1831, it is thus stated and accounted for, viz.—"Interest on the late Joseph Taylor's Legacy, 4*l*. 10*s*," differing both in form and in amount from the later ones, and altogether silent as to the bequeathed *capital* or source from whence this varied interest is derived and secured, or assigning any cause for the late reduction of it from 4*l*. 10*s*. to 4*l*., so that the whole, it would appear, is under the care and control of the Quakers here, without any limitation or explanation whatever. Mr. Joseph Taylor was well known as a most honourable and amiable FRIEND, and so correct in all his transactions, that there can be no doubt that his arrangements would be well considered, and well secured, but of *these* the accounts rendered are just what I have stated. Now, the use I would make of these details is simply this,—that whether the interest be *truly* 4*l*. or 4*l*. 10*s*., as diversely reported in 'different forms,' it is quite clear and obvious that Mr. Treasurer and his coadjutors are ready enough to *receive interest*, and acknowledge it as such in account, but are very squeamish and unwilling to *pay* any, if they can avoid it, and yet have constantly *allowed it to be due* and payable, until Mr. Treasurer introduced his new invented, or 'different form,' by suppressing such admission, and by this means wiping away the debt, both principal and interest, at one fell swoop, by a stroke of his pen; and for which novelty, or legerdemain trick, there ought, I think, to be a brazen statue in the schools, to commemorate the fulfilment of a *threat* so worthy of himself, but so entirely unprecedented and unwarranted by the practice of the Parent Institution, and to the manifest wrong of myself and others,—but

"In troth that man is sure to lose  
That souls his hands with dirty foes."

The consequence of such conduct has naturally been a falling off of the regular subscribers, and a depressing of the School-funds, scarcely providing with certainty for the salaries of the



master and mistress, yet having the free use of the School buildings, without rent or taxes, or any outgoing charge, except occasional cleaning or repairs, no fire-insurance being yet thought of. In fine, with the receipts of last year, though increased by an opportune legacy of 30*l.*, the Institution would have been in a deficit of about 20*l.* So that it really appears to be a righteous ordination of Providence that misrepresentation and injustice should be restrained and corrected by the reaction of their own natural consequences in the confusion and disappointment of the authors. How different, in all respects, is the course pursued at the British and Foreign School Establishment. The Treasurer's account is there audited and attested; not so here. Insurance, taxes, etc. duly discharged, and interest on money advanced or borrowed regularly accounted for. Even by the last Report, 1842, I notice that the Auditors state the balance to be "*subject to the repayment of a loan of 500*l.*;*" besides many other particulars in which their straightforward and honourable conduct and proceedings are entirely different from that which has long prevailed, and is still maintained, at Scarborough; and yet, as regards auditing other public accounts, even the lowest and the meanest, the Scavenger's for instance, the observance of it is duly discharged, and sometimes by the Quakers themselves.

I remain, etc.

G. D.

## LETTER XVIII.

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"Say what thou wouldest, so thy words have no tendency to make me afraid; for the being susceptible of fear, shews weakness of character; whereas I, in being proof against all sorts of terrors, preserve the equanimity of mine."—CERVANTES.

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DEAR SIR,

THE course of this School controversy now compels me to refer more particularly than I have yet done to the correspondence which took place between the President, Dr. Murray, and myself, to which reference is merely had in the Preface to the *first part* of this "Sequel," or series of Letters, and which states that the *second part* "will chiefly be devoted to the clearing up much of the MYSTERY, which has long, too long, hung over the proceedings of certain *prominent official personages*, and their connexions," etc. One of these official personages, Mr. Treasurer Stickney, has already come under your notice in his various shiftings and "*different form*" of accounts, and I will now proceed, with all possible delicacy and despatch, consistent with "truth and equity," to narrate what has been the effect of my applications to the President in this behalf.

In the first place, seeing that in the Report of 1840 the same course of misrepresentation and injustice was persisted in as formerly, in placing my name in the list of subscribers, when I was *not* one, I thought it right to address the following Letter to Dr. Murray, in his *official capacity*, protesting against such an improper use of it; not for the purpose of creating any *personal quarrel* between us, but to put a stop to such irregular procedure for the future on the part of those who seemed evidently bent in misleading him, and the public

generally, on this point, and to whom the plain and wholesome truths contained in this "Sequel," and in the "History and Mystery," its precursor, could not be expected to prove very agreeable to their feelings, any more than my own. I will now transcribe, for your satisfaction, the Letter forwarded to Dr. Murray, and the President's answer thereto; having already discussed and disposed of Mr. Treasurer's letter in the preceding parts of this "Sequel."

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(Copy).

*Scarborough, January 25th, 1841.*

"Peter Murray, Esq., M.D., President of the Lancasterian Schools, Scarborough.

"DEAR SIR,

"It is, I conceive, a duty I owe to the public, as well as myself, to acquaint you that I have lately observed, with some surprise, and more disgust than I can express, my name most unwarrantably introduced in the last published List of Subscribers to the Lancasterian Schools here, of which Institution you are the President, thereby holding out a false and delusive representation upon that subject, which, under the sanction of your authority, is calculated, and no doubt intended, to deceive many.

"I really am at a loss, after all that has passed, for a term sufficiently strong to designate such shameless effrontery and preposterous presumption, as it deserves. But considering the quarter whence it proceeds, I cannot say I am greatly surprised at it, whatever other sentiment I may entertain on this question, it being in perfect harmony with that course of proceeding which I have thought it my duty to bring before the public, and to which no corresponding answer has been or can be given, and the natural consequence of which conduct has already found its level in the embarrassed state of the Institution, which is so gently alluded to in the Report.

"I feel, therefore, compelled to send you this address and further remonstrance, hereby protesting, in the most direct and unqualified manner possible, against the unauthorised use, or rather abuse, of my name, for the furtherance of any such discreditable imposture as above expressed, or otherwise; and I must beg you will notice it accordingly, and call the attention of the committee to it without loss of time.

"I remain, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

"GEORGE DAVIES."

The President's answer of same day was duly received as follows:—

[Copy.]

"Scarborough, 25th January, 1841.

"George Davies, Esq., Scarborough.

"DEAR SIR,

"By this day's post I received a letter from you on the subject of the introduction of *your name* in a part of the Annual Report of the Lancasterian Schools of Scarborough; on which Schools a rather lengthy publication has lately appeared under *your name*. Now, Sir, once for all, I repeat my so often repeated declaration, that on this question I will never enter into any correspondence with you; and hope, therefore, you will not by any future repetition put me to a very disagreeable alternative. I would just, however, remark, that as regards the introduction of *names*, you have assuredly taken quite liberty enough, in the before-mentioned publication, with mine, particularly as you cannot but know that my connexion with these Schools did not take place until long after the period of the change in the nature and arrangement of the Shares, and the sale at the *reduced prices*, of the Shares of Mr. Ketchley and Mr. Blackley to Mr. John Rowntree the elder and to yourself.

"I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

"PETER MURRAY."

Upon the general aspect of this letter it is not difficult to perceive, under cloak of common-place civility, much of uneasiness and perturbation of spirit, proceeding from an excited and embarrassed state of mind, having somehow got into a false position, and without the requisite energy and fortitude of character to disengage himself from those who appear to have been practising on his credulity, and making him their shield and buckler on all occasions, without exposing themselves, or as little as they could help; and I am much mistaken if this is not the most favourable construction that it will admit of. My letter, you will observe, is avowedly *official*, not *personal*, complaining to him, as President, of the conduct of his sub-official, and therefore I have always considered his answer to it to be official also. But I cannot determine what might have been Dr. Murray's views, or how far he might coincide with the Quakers in provoking a *personal* altercation instead of a public *official* discussion; but assuredly some explanation at least of the undefined hint, not to say *threat*, for that reason the more offensive, which his letter contained, of being "put to a very disagreeable alternative," was incumbent on him in any situation, whether public or private,—and had I thought it worth while to have considered it as a *personal* matter, then possibly I should have found that the Doctor would have reminded me of his *official* station, and that nothing personally offensive was intended in the discharge of what was considered and believed to be a public duty, and which he and his sage prompters might afterwards have magnified and misrepresented as a perfect reconciliation of all differences. This, however, was not my intention, and therefore I would not give countenance to any such impression by making it a matter of *private concern* instead of *public principle*; and I sincerely believe this to be the most natural and charitable interpretation that can be given of the President's unseemly, undefined form of expression, and of its intended effect, which, to say the least, betrays great irritability and indiscreet warmth, so difficult on any other ground to be

reconciled with his usual mild and gentlemanly conduct on other occasions. I am far, very far, however, from wishing to take advantage of any occasional slip or failing in what this letter further discovers of fretfulness in regard to the publication of "The History and Mystery," etc., to which it evidently refers, and at the *soreness* it betrays at the unavoidable mention of the President's name in that publication, with the correspondence attached to it; because I am quite aware of the baneful influences by which he is surrounded, and of that natural flexibility of character which surrenders him to such influences, and for which I am willing to make every just and proper allowance.—Waving further remark till my next,

I remain, etc.

G. D.

## LETTER XIX.

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"Dare to be true—nothing can need a lie;  
A fault which needs it most, grows two thereby."—HERBERT.

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DEAR SIR,

HAVING postponed the consideration of the latter part of the President's letter, I will now resume the subject; and very sorry am I to observe, that in addition to the discourtesy and excitement which it discovers, it is moreover so inconsistent with itself, and so extravagantly at variance with truth *as regards me*, that I must request your patient attention to the following examination of its particulars.

I was quite aware, when I published "the History and Mystery" of these Schools, to which he refers, that his connexion with them did not take place until long after the period of the change in 1812-13; and my great surprise is, that in his acknowledged ignorance of the original conditions of their foundation, he should be so marvellously rash and inconsistent as to make assertions with so much confidence upon a case he little understands. That Treasurer Stickney, with a bankrupt exchequer, and with outward professions of "truth and equity" on his lips, should venture to speculate on such matters is not half so surprising as that a gentleman of exact moral probity and purity of conduct should condescend to make himself a mere automaton, and the convenient mouth-piece of an incorrigible Quaker party, seems almost incredible; yet such is really the painful state of the case. For if you

could believe his letter, after the confession of his ignorance and incapacity (not for the first time admitted) to form a true judgment, you are still further called upon to give implicit credit to the assertions which he utters at the artful suggestion of others; viz. that in the settlement of the school affairs at the period when it took place, and *before his connexion* with them, there was what he terms "an arrangement of the shares, and a sale at the reduced prices of those shares of Mr. Ketchley and Mr. Blackley to Mr. John Rowntree the elder, and to yourself."

I have quoted his own words; and without all question a more startling proposition, or one more opposed to "truth and equity"—the Quaker boast—*as regards me*, never was before divulged or propounded by mortal man!!! But still it is somewhat qualified by the reality of its application *as regards Mr. John Rowntree* the elder, and in part neutralises the mischief it seems otherwise calculated, I hope not intended, to produce towards myself; and so far I certainly feel grateful for the President's unexpected assistance in support of the strong *prima facie* case, and in confirming my previously expressed opinion, thereby helping to explain more fully and clearly the "Mystery" of the Schools as exhibited in "the History" of them, to which the President's letter manifestly refers. Still it is to be regretted that in his attempt to extricate Vice President Rowntree from a serious difficulty, he should have ventured to cast a stigma on his former friend; but his words correspond with such a disposition, and demonstrate the mutual understanding between him and his prompter, and may account for the equally undignified and unwarrantable assumption as regards myself, whilst they certainly make the case of his protégé more desperate than ever. Now, as error chiefly becomes formidable from its concealment, so a detection of falsehood generally dispels its charm.

The President is evidently contracting his issues of argument; and in place thereof introducing bold and untenable assumptions, accompanied with what seems a sort of myste-



rious or indefinite threat or intimidation against all remonstrance, lest it should "put him to a very disagreeable alternative;" and this immediately after the voluntary admission of his personal unacquaintance with the merits of the case. Upon such a sad display it would be quite wearisome and out of place to refer to "former associations," or the ever varying and fluctuating character of his earlier letters; in one of which, inserted p. 59 of "History and Mystery," he distinctly states that the words then used "relate not to any *suppressed facts*, but to *restrained opinion*." But now it appears he has made a grand discovery of a new and important *fact*, or such at least he assumes it to be. Still I cannot but feel a degree of sympathy for him, arising from the knowledge I have of his embarrassed position and connexion, and his love of popular applause, which the sacredness of former friendly associations, and the common bond of charity for poor human nature, will never permit me to undervalue or very rigidly condemn. Nevertheless I am surely not less bound to maintain the integrity of my own character and conduct towards him and others concerned in this school business, as well as justify the character and rights of the much abused Mr. Keatley from vilification and repudiation. It is impossible therefore to pass over what Mr. President is pleased to adduce as a *positive fact* regarding "the sale of the shares of Mr. Ketchley and Mr. Blackley to Mr. John Rowntree the elder and myself," without giving it *on my part* the most decided and unqualified denial. The particular *time* and *manner* of my paying over the money, which I had agreed to advance on loan for the school account, and the *person* to whom it was finally paid (Mr. Thomas Tindall), had been before stated in "the History and Mystery," p. 74, and is still more fully detailed in the *first part* of this "Sequel," pp. 38-9, to which I beg your reference; so that on this point I have the strongest possible proof that I am correct. But Dr. Murray, led on by the secret machinations of his informant, most probably Vice President Rowntree, in order to mystify

the matter still more, has been induced to couple my name with that of Mr. John Rowntree the elder, as those who acquired shares sold to each of us by Mr. Ketchley and Mr. Blackley, but carefully abstaining from giving the names of each contracting party *separately considered*, and thereby as a matter of course insinuating that my former allegation of having paid the money to Mr. Thomas Tindall is all a delusion, and that in truth I never did pay it, but ought rather to have paid one of the two persons to whom he has given an ideal existence under the names of Ketchley and Blackley; but as the *former* is most likely a clerical error for Mr. W. Keatley, the unfortunate sufferer to whom Mr. J. Rowntree the elder is allowed to have paid only the sum of 3*l.* 15*s.* for interest, and to whom the further sum of 18*l.* should also have been paid by the said Mr. Rowntree at the same time, or as soon after as possible, seeing that the name of Mr. Keatley was then removed from the list of original shareholders, and that of Mr. Rowntree the elder put in its stead, as appears by the contrasted list of the names at p. 117 of the "History and Mystery," but *which he never did pay*, although we may still charitably hope and believe he might have intended doing so, had he lived to perfect it. With regard to the other name of Blackley, I have only to remark, that no such name or party, or anything like it, appears in any of the Deeds or Documents of the School, or in any of the published Lists of Subscribers or Benefactors at the re-establishment thereof in 1812-13, and therefore this singular discrepancy appears to be an afterthought, if not a pure invention of V. P. Rowntree or others, to get rid of the responsibility of the payment to Mr. W. Keatley, by the substitution of another name, not to be found in any of the existing Deeds or Documents; and really this seems a more serious breach of common decorum on the part of the President, Dr. Murray, and of ordinary good faith and public decency on the part of his informant, whether of V. P. Rowntree (an elder and leader of the Quaker Society here) or any other, than one could ever suppose them capable of; but it

has been observed that "it is the way of all characters who feel themselves justly suspected, to put themselves on their defence in eager assertions, as Major Longbow, after every monstrous tale, adds 'I'll swear that it's true; what will you lay that it's a lie?'" So our said friendly Quakers, after every extravagant assertion, may say, 'We affirm it is true; how will you prove it's a lie?' Thus, however, some may think untruth to be a very convenient and compendious resource, in lack of arguments and facts; it has, nevertheless, its attendant inconveniences and embarrassments, especially with such as have short memories. It costs nothing, to be sure, not even a blush; but then, the circumstances of time and place and person should harmonise, and not be inconsistent with each other; and after all, the utterer will find in the long run, that 'Honesty is the best policy.' Indeed I have sometimes thought whether the virtuous indignation of Pope, expressed in his memorable distich on the great fire of 1666 :—

"Where London's column, pointing at the skies,  
Like a tall Bully, lifts its head—and lies"—

might not be fairly parodied and applied to my extraordinary case, thus—

"Where Scarboro' Quakers, with uplifted eye,  
As some tall bullies, raise their heads—and lie."

I remain, dear Sir,  
G. D.

## LETTER XX.

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"Necessity may, perhaps, sometimes put us upon inconvenience, but necessity must never put us upon iniquity."

"Silence ! one word more

Shall make me chide thee, if not hate thee."—SHAKESPEARE.

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DEAR SIR,

NOTWITHSTANDING the President's official intimation of displeasure, and at the risk of incurring some fearfully undefined threatened *alternative* with which I was menaced, I still felt myself obliged to pursue the same even course of representation and remonstrance, especially as neither his letter nor that of sub-official Treasurer Stickney held out any hope of their doing substantial justice in the case : the latter merely signifying, with much irrelevant and vituperative language, that *possibly* he might put his next account into a '*different form*,' not expecting to please me in the matter, but so as to square better with his predetermined scheme of injustice, yet with outward professions of '*truth and equity*' on his lips, but intending nothing less in his heart,—“It often happens (says Brent) that untruth does more mischief when it affects to keep sullenly couched and stiffened under those two starched monosyllables, *yea* and *nay*, but upon some occasions it will not be at the trouble of one breath or sign, but shall

silently consent you into a falsehood," if not instantly exposed and resisted.

With regard to the President's letter, besides being evidently written under excitement and irritation, so preposterously inconsistent with itself, and in effect so offensive to me, it likewise contained an accumulation of unfounded assertion as to my supposed connexion with either of the two parties whose names are *gratuitously*, and for the first time, introduced into his letter, insinuating thereby that my oft-repeated declaration of having paid Mr. Thomas Tindall the 18*l*. due to him, was unworthy of credit, or that, in addition to such payment, I ought further to pay Mr. W. Keatley his 18*l*., and by this means involve me in a double responsibility, for no other earthly object, that I can divine, than to screen and relieve the Rowntree family from the just payment of the 18*l*. due to Mr. Keatley, the *only person who at the time had, or can now have, any legitimate right or title to receive it.* And yet this absurd doctrine, so utterly irreconcilable to common sense and plain matter of fact, the President has adventurously employed himself, on behalf of V. P. Rowntree and family, to broach and put forth in his aforesaid letter, and immediately thereupon to refuse all explanation, and conclude all correspondence in future. Whereas, I conceive it was more especially incumbent on him to give, and on me to require, a full, fair, and public investigation upon it as early as possible; and I very naturally thought this would best be effected by the Committee in their usual Annual Report, and with this view I transmitted the following letter to Dr. Murray in reference to this subject, appending to it a copy of his own letter, received from him, dated 25th January, 1841, which I have inserted in a former communication, and which need not be repeated. And, by a comparison of their respective dates, you may easily perceive that as a lapse of fourteen months had intervened, I could have no desire to harass or excite his *private feelings* in the desired investigation and adjustment of this *public* question, in an open and public manner.

[Copy.]

"To Peter Murray, Esq., M.D., etc., President of the  
Scarborough Lancasterian Schools.

"SIR, *Scarborough, 4th April, 1842.*

"Be pleased to take notice, that I hereby invite and call upon you to produce and lay before the Committee and Subscribers, at the Annual General Meeting of the above Institution, to be holden at the Town Hall to-morrow evening the 5th instant, my Letter, addressed to you in your official capacity, dated 25th January, last year, protesting against certain irregularities which appeared in the published Report of the Treasurer's Accounts and proceedings of the last Annual General Meeting in December, 1840, together with a copy of your official Letter to me of the same date (as per annexed transcript of it):—And I likewise further request, and call upon you to produce the authorities and proofs upon which you considered yourself justified in writing such letter to me, either in your public official capacity as President of the Institution or otherwise.

"Your compliance will be only an act of justice to all parties, if it be duly published and circulated, and adequately supported by corresponding proofs: to all which I particularly invite your calm and candid attention.

"I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

"(Signed) *GEORGE DAVIES.*"

Now mark, I beseech you, the effect which this reasonable, temperate, and indispensably necessary letter produced on the conduct of the President and his associates on this occasion. He received the letter, opened the envelope, and after reading it himself, would no doubt communicate its contents to the two Quaker officials, V. P. Rowntree and Treasurer Stickney, and in pursuance of their advice, (for I cannot suppose that, as a gentleman, Dr. Murray would of himself commit such indecorum), they resolved to keep it very snugly to themselves at the General Meeting; and the day after, or 6th of April, the President thought fit to *return the original letter*, without

any envelope, and without a single observation or remark whatever upon it. Such unworthy conduct sufficiently points out the Quaker source from whence the President's indiscreet warmth and covert threat might be derived, and most forcibly illustrates the pitiful tricks and contrivances to which they are driven, with the perfidy of their whole procedure, in making the President a mere tool in their hands for the furtherance of their obscure and artful schemes.

Nothing however daunted, or moved from my steady and determined and just purposes, I allowed another year to pass in painful suspense and suppressed feeling, when I took the opportunity of the next General Meeting to revive the subject by sending the President another Letter, equally calm and still more distinctly emphatic than the former, and the following is a correct copy of it.

"To Dr. Murray, President of the Scarborough Lancasterian Schools.

"SIR,

"*Scarborough, 20th March, 1843.*

"I am willing to believe that you are by this time not unconscious [of the impropriety of returning my last Letter, after opening it, under a blank cover, addressed to you as it was, in your public and official capacity, and on public and official business. But as my object then, as now, really affects the public and private character of both of us, I must again, upon the return of the Annual General Meeting of the Lancasterian Schools, direct your attention to the charge you have deliberately made against me, *under your own hand*; viz. that I and another person respectively purchased Shares in the said Schools of 'Mr. Ketchley and Mr. Blackley.' *This for MYSELF I utterly deny*, and think I have proved to be entirely groundless.

"I therefore call upon you in common justice, either frankly to acknowledge your error, or otherwise to state the authority upon which you formed your conclusion upon this point.

"I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

"GEORGE DAVIES."

This letter I submitted to the inspection of one or two private friends, who not only approved of its spirit, as being written with due respect and self-evident truth, but conceived that it would be impossible for Dr. Murray, as a gentleman, to evade giving some sort of answer on this occasion; however, it proved otherwise, as by the next post-delivery it was returned under a blank envelope, without a single word of explanation or remark: the address only being written in the Doctor's usually free and flowing character, like its predecessor of the former year;—thus,

“Some have been wounded with conceit,  
And died of mere *opinion* straight;  
Others, though wounded sore in *reason*,  
Feel no confusion, nor discretion.”

In conclusion, I would just remark, that when the *love* of truth rules the heart, the *light* of truth will guide the practice; for, as Grotius critically remarks, “all wilfully obscure speaking, as well as all deceitful silence and concealment, are in fact as much untruth as direct falsehood.” But I would charitably hope the fault is not the President's, so much as his artful advisers and prompters—

“Some *cannie men*, close buttoned to the chin,  
Broad-cloth without, but *frigid* hearts within.”

I remain, etc.

G. D.



## LETTER XXI.

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“ Mark what another says : for many are  
 Full of themselves, and answer their own notions.  
 Catch not at quarrels ;—he that dares not speak  
 Plainly and home, is coward of the two.”—HERBERT.

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DEAR SIR,

It is my desire, and shall be my endeavour, to bring these letters, and the strange revelations they disclose, to a speedy issue. I will now, therefore, briefly recapitulate some of the leading topics as an epitome of the whole, and add one or two important facts to those I have already enumerated, with which I shall conclude.

And with respect to the President's weak argument of the *insignificant amount* of the injustice done to myself, Mr. Keatley, and others, as being *not worth his notice*, it is really too shallow and trivial to need refutation :

“ The cheapest sins most dearly punished are ;  
 Because to shun them also is so cheap.”

The President cannot but know that every violation of *probity* and *principle* is an offence against the law and usage of civilised society, as well as of pure and religious obligation, which every honest man is bound by the most sacred ties, and at every hazard, to assert and to maintain ;—that the more or the less, the greater or the smaller, are merely co-relative terms, with which the nature and majesty of abstract *justice* has nothing to do ;—that to know the difference of right and wrong speaks our wisdom, and to observe that difference speaks our goodness. But, as I have often remarked, I am

quite disposed to make very great allowance for the President's peculiar situation and connexion with his Quaker friends here, to their subtle and seductive influences over his easy temper, and his overweening love of public notoriety, as Chairman or President of so many meetings, which has, in some quarters, obtained for him the complacent appellation of "*being all things to all men*," and sometimes, unfortunately, pleasing none. Most unquestionably he has a perfect right to think and act upon his own views,—at least his *opinions* he insists are his own; but it has been observed that one well attested *fact* is worth a thousand vain *opinions*, and certainly a prudent and really conscientious man will not, either individually or otherwise, for any consideration, knowingly give offence, or sanction it in others, by the violation of *truth* and *fact*; nor will he designedly for these substitute his own or other men's mere *opinions*, but will first carefully institute proper inquiry, and not venture to give utterance to them to the prejudice of any one, even though he be a "*stranger or indifferent person*," and still more against a *neighbour* or former *friend*, without very sure and sufficient proofs or grounds of authority, and which when publicly called upon by the injured party he will be prepared to adduce and establish, and not contrariwise seek to evade, either by sullen silence or supercilious menace: for it must always be remembered that, "we have never finished our work, till we are well informed in our judgments, well refined in our spirits, and well reformed in our manners." On this point I cannot but avail myself of the judicious sentiments of a much valued and highly "respected friend," as follows:—"With respect to your publication, ('The History and Mystery,' etc.), were I to give an opinion upon it, at present I could not do so without passing some degree of censure upon" [your opponents], "for having, as it were, gone out of their way to prevent a free and searching inquiry into those matters which you were anxious to have cleared up; but inasmuch as I have only had the means of hearing the case stated upon one side, I should feel disposed to suspend any expression of

opinion upon the subject, until I could be afforded an opportunity of hearing the statement of the other party. Of one thing, however, any person who has read your work must be convinced; namely, that you have been actuated by no other motive than a sense of public duty in thus bringing forward the matter, and that in the discharge of that duty you have manifested an unyielding integrity of purpose, and an indomitable moral courage that one rarely meets with in the present day." With regard to V. P. Rowntree, whose knowledge of and connexion with these most extraordinary and discreditable proceedings may entitle him to be considered the *fac-totum*, and prime mover in their concoction and recent development; and who, having succeeded his late father as an elder and leader among the Quakers here, is looked up to as the oracle of their party, I have certainly just reason to complain: for although my unfortunate connexion with the Schools is at least coeval with his, if not earlier, and of which I have given ample proof in the 'History and Mystery,' and the 'Sequel,' already published, by references to and quotations from existing vouchers *in my hands*; whilst he pretends that the Secretaries' books are not to be found, he at the same time declines producing those very books kept by his late father, the first Treasurer, which he has admitted to be at this time *in his hands*, and which are so *indispensably necessary to be produced* on the present occasion, for the elucidation of truth or detection of error. Now Lord Bacon has this remark on such like characters—"Where," he says, "there's a great difference betwixt a *cunning man* and a *wise man*. There be that can pack the cards, who yet can't play well; they are good in *cavasses* and *factions*, and yet otherwise mean men." Such inconsistency and reluctance on his part, to say the best of it, is most unjustifiable and unwise, and is more likely to operate to the disadvantage of himself and his family, in the good opinion of all candid and impartial persons, than had he voluntarily consented to produce them, in order to give such information and satisfaction as Mr. Alderman Weddell, by his

letter to me of 21st January 1841, thought it "but fair to me, as well as to the Subscribers to the Schools, for him (V. P. Rowntree) to publish in explanation," etc. (See first part of Sequel, p. 18).

In reference to this important part of the case, I must again beg leave to solicit your attention to the communication of my oldest and most "respected friend" as follows:—"As you requested, I have carefully looked over your publication, and do think there was an absolute necessity for the same; for those who are quite indifferent as to their *own characters*, generally are very *regardless of others*. I have oft observed, relative to public business, that while many are officially engaged, a few individuals alone act. This in some measure appears to be the case in the business referred to, and whenever public accounts are *concealed, denied, or kept back* from inspection to those who have *right* to see or inquire, depend upon it there is much *cause for suspicion*. This I conceive to be the case in the present business. My own opinion is, you could not act otherwise than you have done; and I do think the parties immediately interested therein *ought*, and surely will, feel obliged, except there should be any whose conduct will not bear the *light of truth*. It appears there are some persons whose cases are extremely necessitous and much to be pitied, and for them you are manifesting that feeling and exertion which not only does you credit, but may render their latter days more comfortable. This I hope and trust will be the case." A great variety of other letters and opinions in the same strain might easily be adduced, if necessary; but these, I think, may well suffice for the present.

I remain, etc.

G. D.

## LETTER XXII.

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"Fidem qui perdit, quo se servat in reliquum?"—BACONIANA.

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DEAR SIR,

I find it is quite in vain any longer to disguise or mince the matter, for after collating the whole of the deeds and documents, and upon mature consideration, I am more than ever confirmed in the accuracy of my assertion, at p. 47 of the 'History and Mystery,' that Mr. Rowntree "*was no money lender.*" In opposition to this, V. P. Rowntree affirms in his letter, also inserted at length at p. 72, that his father "*paid what he received.*" And again, at p. 76, that "*he certainly paid the whole of his 18l.*" Now allowing the *first* assertion to be correct, it is somewhat curious that, as regards the *second*, he should abstain from particularizing *to whom* the 18l. was paid, especially as my letter to him had directed his attention to this point, as affecting the interest of Mr. W. Keatley; the latter being the *only* person who had not signed the Deed of Conveyance, of 13th July 1813, because not settled with, and Mr. Rowntree's name substituted for *his* in the Trust Deed of 14th July, or day after, and in the published accounts and reports of the School for the first three years, in my possession, and perhaps longer. These facts have, I conceive, been sufficiently established in the aforesaid 'History and Mystery,' pp. 70, 82, and also at pp. 112, 118; and they evidently shew that however we may charitably hope and believe Mr. Rowntree the elder might have intended to pay Mr. Keatley the 18l. for his concern in the School, by some unaccountable omission or forgetfulness, he never did pay him more than 3l. 15s.; and

*that* not his own money, but for two and a half years of interest due to him out of the *public Stock*, or funds placed in his hands as Treasurer of the Society for that *express purpose*, as in like manner he had before paid Mr. Thomas Tindall a similar sum, leaving me to pay him the 18*l.* which had been previously agreed upon, and conditioned for, by the resolution of the General Public Meeting, of which the *same Mr. Rowntree* was himself the Chairman: See 'History and Mystery,' p. 101. It is not for me to account for, or even conjecture, what might have occasioned this *grand mistake*, I merely state the broad facts, as I find them in the public deeds and documents to which I have referred, and exactly as I find them, without note or comment; and surely if V. P. Rowntree could fairly shew I was in error by any written entry in his father's books *under his own hand*, he would have made no difficulty in stating it; but most readily, of his own accord, have *produced the books* in proof of it; as I have always expressed the greatest deference and respect to the memory of his late father, and the correctness of accounts kept by him; and I may now add that I am always open to conviction, and should think myself beholden to him, or any other who can shew in what respect I am mistaken upon this or any other subject.

Instead of this, however, the President, Dr. Murray, in the last resort, has been prevailed upon to put forth a *new and marvellous tale* (being at the same time confessedly ignorant of the origin of these Schools), calculated, not to say intended, to involve the matter in still further obscurity, by associating my name with that of Mr. Rowntree the elder, as having each purchased shares of Mr. Ketchley and Mr. Blackley; which really recoils upon himself with tenfold greater aggravation, as I think I have clearly demonstrated in letters xix and xx of this 'Sequel,' and have satisfactorily shewn that such assertion, *so far as regards me*, is utterly *groundless*; and has only a semblance of being true, as between Mr. Rowntree the elder and Mr. W. Keatley, who, however, never was paid the 18*l.* for his share; whilst it appears by the original deeds, that *he*

and *he only*, was the party entitled to receive it; and further, that no such name or person as Mr. Blackley is at all alluded to or recognised by those deeds; and consequently that no just title can be derived from any such unreal and imaginary source, now so lately and so obscurely put forth by Dr. Murray on this occasion. With regard to the general impression of the views and proceedings of many of the Quakers here, it is freely admitted, *as individuals*, to be innocent and exemplary; but as an *aggregate body*, they certainly have obtained an unenviable distinction, as the favourers of an overbearing, monopolizing, self-seeking policy, that never loses sight of their own immediate interests, or neglects any opportunity to acquire and keep possession of power or influence, whether in dealing with charity affairs, or as assessors or dealers in shares, or other money speculations lately set on foot here, as elsewhere. In all such matters, they are an expert, compact, well-organized body, steadily and unitedly acting together to secure the *main chance*, yet aiming and wishing to be considered as the source and centre of whatever is pure, excellent and praiseworthy: but unless there be some hope or prospect of making good deeds *answer*, they not unfrequently have strange scruples of conscience, lest evening public tea meetings may not become dangerous to the morals of the humbler classes, by the possible intermixture of improper characters, as was shewn to be the ground of complaint, by Mr. Joseph Rowntree at York, in a former letter, Part I. pp. 68—70.

But to come nearer home, our Scarborough Lancasterian Schools have at all times been under the special surveillance, control, and patronage of a dominant Quaker party, not so numerous as they are active, united, and overbearing; and as the Treasurers have invariably been of that Society, they of course have had the receipt and direction of the annual subscriptions, occasional donations, and not unfrequently of very considerable legacies, in the management of which, I may conscientiously believe, that they "*pay what they receive*," to use V. P. Rowntree's own words, notwithstanding the

informality of their accounts being unattested by auditors chosen for the purpose; yet without any breach of charity, I think it must be admitted that, with the power and pre-eminence thus obtained in the administration of the financial and economical concerns of the Schools, by their patronage or procurement in giving admission to the scholars on the lowest terms, they acquire thereby a preponderating influence over them and their friends, which in business may be not unacceptable to their Quaker patrons; and when I connect this with the repudiation and ultimate denial of public, and long before acknowledged, *just debts*, and the efforts of late made to evade all investigation into past or present transactions, by the substitution of a new or "different form" of account instead thereof, I cannot but feel the deepest concern and the worst forebodings, that the same evil spirit should still prevail, and that just grievances and wished-for redress are to be met, not by force of argument, or by calm reasoning, but by insidious mis-statements or supercilious silence—by false assumptions or by secret menaces; added to all which I have long observed an increasing tendency in the Quaker party to consider these Schools rather in the light of *private* than of *public* property, belonging, as they allege, to certain persons denominated "*Shareholders*," but most decidedly contrary to that character of "*Trustee*" which I sustain, and to the words of the Resolution appointing me to that office, in which it is expressly stated that I am "*not a Shareholder*."

But what seems really more extraordinary than anything I have yet divulged, is the following *new and astounding fact*, to which my attention has been but lately drawn; namely, that in a large ground-plan map of the town, carefully compiled from actual survey by Mr. John Wood, and published by Mr. C. Todd in the year 1828, the site of these Lancasterian Schools is specifically marked, not only by their proper name, but also with the unusual addition of MR. ROWNTREE, indicating thereby that *he*, and *he only*, had the *ownership*, just as my house is marked with my name as owner, as well as many



other *private* dwellings which are so marked, but differing entirely from the amicable Society Schools, and the other *public* and *benevolent* Institutions at this place, which have no such personal designation or *individual name* or names annexed to them. Mr. Rowntree the elder died in 1827, at which time the map might be in progress, but that is of less consequence, as in the published form it is equally applicable to the family whose general name it bears, and affords, I think, incontestable proof of the encroaching, grasping, not to say unjust spirit, which at that period prevailed, and which it would appear still continues to exist; so that, in fact, to be consistent with the map, the name of ROWNTREE should be inscribed on or above the stone in front of the building, in addition to LANCASTERIAN SCHOOL; and then to perfect the plan, I would suggest the propriety of inscribing below, and as a finish to the whole, the word—TEKEL.

I remain, dear Sir,

Your most obedient and obliged servant,

GEORGE DAVIES.



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